President Kocharyan in working visit to France meets President Sarkozy

Concludes Year of Armenia in France

by Emil Sanamyan

PARIS – President Nicolas Sarkozy of France and President Robert Kocharyan of Armenia held an hour-long meeting at the Elysée Palace on July 12, continuing the close high-level relationship the two countries’ successive leaders have developed over the last decade.

“We have reaffirmed all the goals we set in the past, and we have also tried to outline new areas of cooperation,” Mr. Kocharyan said.

“It was a very specific and pragmatic discussion, and I am satisfied with its outcome and the atmosphere of our meeting. We are going to continue our contacts.”

Pres. Kocharyan’s working visit on July 11–13 also included meetings with the presidents of the two chambers of the French legislature – Christian Poncelet of the Senate and Bernard Accoyer of the National Assembly.

Armenia’s president was last in France in February of this year, when he first met with Mr. Sarkozy, who was then the French interior minister and a presidential candidate. Mr. Sarkozy was elected president in May.

Mr. Sarkozy’s predecessor as president, Jacques Chirac, made a state visit to Armenia last fall. Mr. Chirac’s visit kicked off the Year of Armenia in France. Mr. Kocharyan’s visit marks the conclusion of the program on July 14, which comprised some 400 cultural events all over France.

Alex and Marie Manoogian’s earthly remains arrive in Holy Etchmiadzin

YEREVAN – The earthly remains of Alex and Marie Manoogian will be reinterred in Holy Etchmiadzin on July 17, the Mother See announced last week. Mr. Manoogian, a National Hero of the Republic of Armenia, was Life President of the Armenian General Benevolent Union. He died in 1996. Mrs. Manoogian had died in 1992. They had previously been interred in Detroit.

On Friday, July 13, the caskets arrived in Armenia. Louise Manoogian Simone, the daughter of Alex and Marie Manoogian, and other Manoogian family members were on hand, as was Berge Setrakian, president of the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

His Holiness Karekin II, the Catholicos of All Armenians, National Assembly Speaker Tigran Torosian, Prime Minister Serge Sargsian, and other dignitaries were at the airport to greet the Air France flight. The cortege moved from the airport to the Monastery of Saint Gayane in Vagharshapat, and the caskets were placed inside the sanctuary, where they will lie in repose until July 17.

Inside the monastery, the Catholicos offered a solemn requiem. “Our free land receives today its dedicated scions… who lived and contributed selfless efforts for the love of the renaissance and vibrancy of the spiritual and national life of our people dispersed throughout the world,” Karekin II said. “They created the luminous path of their own lives, as well as the lives of countless Armenians, with the faith and vision of a renewed, prosperous, and flourishing homeland.”

See editorial on page A10

Photolure.

International

Will Armenian-Azerbaijani dialogue continue?

On June 28, 2007, a joint Armenian-Azerbaijani delegation visited Karabakh, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. This initiative was realized after a year and a half of bilateral discussions. The visit was a departure from Azerbaijan’s usual hostile rhetoric and policy. But it is still unclear, if the trip will open the way for more dialogue or become an exception from the norm.

Representative John Tierney (D-Mass.) has been a longtime supporter of the Armenian causes in Congress. As part of his work on Armenia at Work series, he discussed U.S. concerns about Iran and other issues with Azeri officials.

On the issue of Karabakh, the Karabakh government put out a press release saying that “considering the activities of the Armenian community” the congressman was happy to hear the other side. Our Washington Editor Emel Sanamyan talked to Rep. Tierney to see if that made a difference in his views on Karabakh.

Armenian congressional caucus member Rep. John Tierney talks about his trip to Azerbaijan

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See story on page A2

International

Crime Beat: In gang-related shootings in Southern California, police get little cooperation

Marat Manukyan, 18, was killed on April 26 in gang violence, Jason Kandel reports.

A 17-year-old boy was held on suspicion of murder. But the Los Angeles District Attorney declined to file charges for lack of evidence.

Witnesses wouldn’t cooperate, Detective Martin Pinner said.

The case remains unresolved.

“They’d rather not cooperate and allow killers to roam the streets than to put themselves in a position where they’d have to testify,” Pinner said. “We need general, everyday community members to make the system function properly. Without that cooperation, we end up with cases like this.”

See story on page B8

Community

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See editorial on page A10

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International

Genocide scholars honor Ambassador John Evans

by Emil Sanamyan

YEREVAN – The diplomat whose ca-
reer was cut short by the U.S. State
Department after he spoke openly
about the Armenian Genocide was
honored by the International
Association of Genocide Scholars
(IAGS) this week.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Ar-
menia John Evans received the as-
sociation’s Raoul Wallenberg award
on July 12 during the association’s
week-long conference in Sarajevo
in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The IAGS conference agenda said
that the award went to Mr. Evans
“for speaking out when diplomats are
expected to remain silent, and
for calling upon the United States
government to recognize the Ar-
menian Genocide.”

In his prepared remarks, made
available to the Armenian Reporter,
Mr. Evans, a member of the State
Department’s Policy Planning staff,
said that the Position Paper it was
certainly in a different league
from that of Mr. Wallenberg, the
Swedish humanitarian who under
diplomatic cover in World War II
helped rescue Jews from the Nazi
Holocaust.

“I simply violated a strict taboo,
and diffused publicly with my
government, when, at 2:30 a.m.
on that day, I used the term
genocide’ to describe – accurately,
in my view – what happened to
the Armenians of Anatolia in 1915,”
Mr. Evans said.

While “nothing can fully com-
penstate the Armenian people for
the death and destruction they
suffered,” Mr. Evans added, “at a mini-
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**Ludmila Grigorian recounts June 28 meeting and looks to the future**

**Editor's Note:** For nearly a year, a team of Armenia and Azerbaijan, led by former President of Armenia Kocharian and Azerbaijan, Kocharian's wife, Solichkhan, worked on the idea of a joint trip to Karabakh for the purpose of fostering confidence-building measures.

**HAA:** How did you first become involved in civic activism and human rights issues? I think I do have the right to repres... It and lost their loved ones in it. I think I have the right to tel... Our president, Baku, was well received by the Azerbaijani participants. I said Polad talked to the Azerbaijani... A visit to Karabakh, which became the focal... I was certainly not a public person... The meeting’s tone was set by Ambas... During July 9 State Depart... And I did have previous contacts. I think all participants had... Perhaps it was my independent... Someone has to stay here... Ludmila Grigorian, PhD, is a Stepanakert-based contributor to the Armenian Reporter. Washington: Editor Emil Samanyan contributed to this story.

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**Ludmila Grigorian**

**Will Armenian-Azerbaijan dialogue continue?**

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Ludmila Grigorian, PhD, is a Stepanakert-based contributor to the Armenian Reporter. Washington: Editor Emil Samanyan contributed to this story.
by Michael McClinton

SAN FRANCISCO – The growth of Armenia’s high-tech industry was the major goal of the ArmTech conference held in San Francisco. ArmTech, the debut conference organized by the Silicon Valley-based Armenian Technology Professionals Network and the Armenian Diaspora Professionals Network brought together representatives of industry, government, and high-tech professionals in Armenia and the United States to present potential investors with a look at the current economic climate in Armenia, and with various investment opportunities.

The conference, which attracted over two hundred registrants from around the world, arranged presentations and panels into various program tracks: Investment, Software, Telecommunications, Research and Development, and Professional Networking. Between panels the conference participants socialized over coffee in a lunch room where various government agency officials spoke about the opportunities with headquarters or branches in Armenia had set up information display booths. Among the high points included a bay cruise on Thursday night and a formal banquet with Daron Petrossian as keynote speaker.

Armenian Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian addressed the participants at Saturday’s closing session, calling the conference a “gathering of visionaries and futurists.” He mentioned the issues that Armenia faced in its first years of independence. Since we are living in a world where knowledge is the wealth of a nation, we have achieved we owe to reformation made in the past fifteen years, he said. “Let’s admit it; the first ten years were the easiest ones. The most obvious. The easiest ones to be able to achieve, as we could not engage with the second generation of politicians in their first seats. According to Oskanian, part of Armenia’s recent prevalence in its current position has changed;” he said. “We cannot maintain our competitiveness in the region if we do not constantly seek out new resources. Those resources will come from Armenia and Diaspora,” he said. “It is precisely this kind of gatherings with which we can remain competitive in the increasingly globalized world.”

But even the corporations, with their larger pockets, are having trouble recruiting the necessary numbers of skilled workers. Various solutions are being discussed that can provide a greater collaboration between higher education and industries; reduce the challenge of the workforce participation, the need for larger scale salaries at corporations. Armenia’s education must revamp its educational system and attract the best and brightest talents.

Today’s young technologists invariably find work in the high tech industry. But even with a high degree, at least according to conference participants, was the need for a larger pool of educated high tech workers, and a larger pool of high tech education for larger salaries at corporations. Armenia’s educational system must revamp its educational system and attract the best and brightest talents.

By the closing session, registrants were exposed to the collective capabilities of Armenia and its Diaspora, to enhance our capacity for innovation. Challenges to Armenia’s high tech industry, as discussed at the conference, included the delay and mishandling of computer equipment in Customs, the lack of maintenance for sophisticated computer equipment, the inadequate collection of tax revenue for the need for more reliable broadband Internet connection and the situation with the dran, which can prohibit new investments.

Oskanian calls for partnerships among specialists and professionals

Oskanian addressed deficiencies in the education of Armenia’s rural students. Oskanian called research and development “the weak link in the chain of progress.” He urged conference participants to “deepen the cooperation between scientists in Armenia and Armenia’s Diaspora. Our scientists need to be nurtured,” he said. “The opportunities that need to be exposed to the Western style of doing things.”

From Oskanian’s comments, ArmTech program coordinator Yervant Zorian presented a summary of the concerns and conclusions discussed during the conference’s various panels and presentations. Again and again, representatives of industries such as software, telecommunications, and superconductors, spoke about the challenges of doing business in Armenia. Today’s most pressing issue facing the high tech industry in Armenia is the need to populate the industry with high technology skills.

A “gathering of visionaries and futurists” at first ArmTech Conference
President Kocharyan tells Spiegel Online Armenia, Karabakh to form “asymmetric federation”

After fifteen years of indepen-
dence, Armenia’s international recog-
nization is no longer in question. In its independence, President Rob-
ter Kocharyan of Armenia told German newspaper Spiegel on July 11, PanArmenian.net reported the same day.

“I see Armenia’s and Karaba-
kh’s future as an asymmetric confed-
eration. But currently the Karab-
akh republic is a full-fledged state, which copes with many tasks better than Azerbaijan,” he said.

Lack of progress in negotiations on Karabakh’s status is caused by Azerbaijan’s unwillingness to accept reality,” Mr. Kocharyan ar-
gued. He encouraged Azerbaijan to realize that it is impossible to turn the wheel of history: “A people who have gained self-determination will not give it up.

In response to Azerbaijan’s border issues, Mr. Kocharyan said that it is not the time to respond to the need of the other side to feel security. 

“The Armenia’s borders are fixed. If the border of Azerbaijan changes due to the situation, then Armenia will have another motive to feel that it is under attack by someone of a foreign terri-

Mr. Kocharyan also said that while he would prefer not to draw analogies between the Karabakh and Kosovo conflicts, “undoubtedly, the Karabakh people have the same right to independence as Albanians of Kosovo, more so [considering that Karabakh Arn-
menians] protected their right [in self-determination] without interference by the international community.”

The article was published on July 10. Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian of Ar-
menia agreed with international mediators dealing with the Nagorno-Karabakh issue during a press conference on July 10. Talks could be moved forward fol-
lowing the second round of the Euro-

Continued from page A4

To talk about education today means talking about IT and the internet, about bringing those re-
sources within a reach of every child-

Descendants of Genocide-era AXA insurance policyholders urged to file for compensation

France’s insurance giant AXA set aside $1.5 million to compensate descendants of its life insurance policyholders. The French company is among the many Ar-
menian Genocide victims, lawyers repre-
senting the beneficiaries in a class ac-
cion suit said at a press confer-
ence in Yerevan on July 10, local news agency WTN reported. 

Parties Vaygahan and Par-

Three killed in Yerevan cemetery shooting

A vendetta-like feud between two families over the construction of a new, shari-

In the shootout case, three per-

First woman governor appointed in Armenia

For the first time since Armenia’s new provincial division was es-

Lida Nanian became governor of the Shirak province (marz). The government press service told the Armenian Reporter that Ms. Na-
nian was nominated by the run-

Millennium Challenge Corporation arrives in Meghri

Meghri, aging irrigation network is to be replaced with a gravity ir-

Lida Nanian. First woman governor appointed in Armenia.

Oskanian calls for partnerships among specialists and professionals

Oskanian, who is the minister of science and technology in the Ministry of Science and Technology, is an advocate of the idea that Armenia needs to create a system of partnerships that allow for the exchange of ideas and knowledge. In his speech, Oskanian emphasized the importance of collaboration between different fields of science and technology.

Born in 1949 in the village of Shogham of Ararat Province in the Ar-
meanian Republic, Oskanian has a Ph.D. in nuclear physics from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a member of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
Aram’s iron-forged triangle: faith, family, work
by Armen Hakobyan

YEREVAN – “I would say it in the words of our Lord: Labor was the result of Original Sin. When Adam and Eve sinned, God said to the woman, ‘In pain shall you give birth.’ And so, you shall earn your head by the sweat of your brow. ’That is to say, to gain our daily bread, we have to suffer pain, we have to sweat. That’s it. And that is the way we have to live with it.”

“But there is an important caveat: what we lost with Adam is being restored to us through Christ. In other words, when we turn to Christ, sorrow is taken away from us. Labor is not a torture for us anymore; it can go on with ease, and in some sense it can even become a blessing,”

The insight comes from Aram Antonyan, a blacksmith and the hero of this installment of our “Armenia at Work” series. He was responding to my concluding interview question, about his perceptions of work.

When I talk about these things, it’s clear that Aram is not just spouting fine words. “The words of our Lord” are things that come very naturally to his mind, because it’s the way he really thinks – the way he lives and works, and above all the way he counts and does indeed create. Because Aram, who will celebrate his 50th birthday this year, is more than a blacksmith. Those hands now dedicated to the hammer and anvil once held a sculptor’s chisel.

Aram was initiated into the art of chasing at the Panos Terterian Art College, and only years later chose to take up blacksmithing as a profession.

Just like in the movie

In ancient Greece they would say that nothing is accidental in this life, nothing happens by chance, and even seeming coincidences have a cause-and-effect explanation.

I think about that as I reflect on my visit to Armenia to find a blacksmith in Yerevan. One forging shop I found had closed and moved away, another shop was nowhere to be found at the address I was given, and when I finally managed to meet with a blacksmith, he didn’t want to talk to me for some reason.

But maybe it was for the best. Because it led me to Yerevan’s Leningradian Street, to a small house with a strange façade and a signboard reading “Blacksmithing” and “Triangle.”

And when I knocked through the half-opened door, I understood that here, at last, was not only a blacksmith worth writing about, but one that I had to write above.

When you are looking for a blacksmith in Yerevan, it’s impossible to ignore the name “Triangle.” The Triangle is one of Armenia’s most famous blacksmiths.

The forge in the movie got its name from its triangular shape, and Aram says that he tried to follow that same plan when it came to building his own shop: “It was the forge that suggested the idea of naming the forge ‘Triangle.’ Besides, it does have a triangular shape: the ceiling and walls cut in to make a triangle, and in the front part both the glass and stone segments have a triangular shape.

Aghasi Ayvazyan [the well-known screenwriter of the movie] has not visited this place yet, but Armenia TV’s ‘The Story of a File’ segment about the Triangle movie was shot here.”

The forge is where our interview is taking place, but it’s hard to tell at first glance whether you’re in a blacksmith’s shop or a sculptor’s studio – or whether you’ve wandered into some kind of ethnographic exhibit.

“This is not our workshop,” Aram explains. “We have one, but ‘Tri- angle’ is something different. We don’t like to call it an ‘office’; this is our ‘art studio,’ if you wish.”

He smiles: “Our poets in the times of Tsoumanian had their Versaun, and this is our Versaun, if you like.”

Everything is neatly ordered and in its place. Numerous pieces testify to a distinctive creative imagination and the gifted hands of an ironmaster are on display throughout the place. But nothing is obtrusive, nothing hinders the view; everything is a pleasure to observe. On the right of the forge is the bowels, on the left hang the ironmaster die and other instruments. The sleighhammer rests on the anvil. An original chandelier hangs from the ceiling, a picture on the wall, a Venetian lantern on the walls and table, ancient pots and pans. Next to a table, and above – a picture of Ararat, of course. In one corner radio sets from the 1950s sit on handmade stands. In the next corner, right in front of the icon of Christ, is a hand-made candlestick.

Among all this, the first thing that strikes the eye of a newcomer is the greatcoat of a Soviet army infantryman draped on a hanger made by the ironmaster. And then there’s the modern computer, standing starkly against a backdrop of ancient utensils.

Blacksmith dynasty

Entering a small office of the “Triangle” I notice among some old musical instruments on the wall a 15- to 20-year-old photograph. Aram catches my glance and explains: “Here we are with my brothers and apprentices. In the upper row are the apprentices. And below you can see my brothers, my cousin, and me, with my elder son.”

It’s at this point that I learn that Aram has three brothers. In fact, all four Antonyans are engaged in blacksmith work. This was a great surprise to me. Although it was not possible to talk to all the brothers – they were busy with work – I’m satisfied that the meeting with Aram Antonyan will be something to remember for a long time. I ask him to tell me about himself and his brothers in greater detail.

“There are four of us: the oldest Tigran, then me, then Armen and Arthur. All four are blacksmiths, although this is not a profession that they or their parents ever dreamed of. Our father, Samuel Antonyan, was an architect. By the way, we also are not blacksmiths by training. Two of my brothers are artists, another is a teacher. As for me, I am a professional sculptor, graduated from Terterian Art College. We come from Kapan, Syunik, where we still maintain ties with many relatives, and visit them regularly.”

“Do you remember, in the mov- ie they were all Mkhitars? And likewise we are all Antonyans. It turned out that all of us liked this trade, this profession, and it’s already 22 years that we are into it.”

Since Soviet times,” Aram Anto- nyan says, “my masters were my brothers, Tigran and Armen. Later the three of us served as masters for Arthur. As for Tigran and Armen, they learned blacksmithing from the Gyumri masters Gagik and Gevork both are still safe and sound, but not in Armenia anymore. And if we are speaking about artistic ironmongery, then we must mention the person who restored those traditions in our country: an artist named Varden. Now he is in the States, but in the late 80s he actu- ally revitalized this field.”

Judging by his output, I ask, can we say that he finds work in his chosen profession? “Well, we can say so,” he returns, “but what is more important is that you work as an artist, that you are in the world of art.”

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Aram's iron-forged triangle: faith, family, work.

The greatest difficulty
Our conversation with Aram is interrupted by the visit of a client: a big man of 75 to 80 years. A fashion magazine tucked under his arm. He's been a client this year. He's been a regular customer. He wants to have a mirror made. Aram'sParamoun's director and chief designer is a clever man. He's been working here for over 30 years. He's a master at his craft. He's a master of his craft. He's a master of his craft.

The most important thing in the world
In Master Aram's philosophy, the most important thing in the world is belief in God. "To believe in God means to obey to his words," he explains. "There has to be a divine nature in every man, for man was created in the image and likeness of God," the master says.

And on the subject of human feelings, he notes: "I love simplicity, I love openness. I don't like hassanas in society, I love openness, lechery, meanness. It's good that the human being is human. You know, you can't substitute a human in his image, but we do not accept it completely: we understand it's not we do not treat each other, we do not respect each other, why we have been created. A little bit later, returning to my question on the meaning of work, he summarizes his own philosophy: "To work and to live: These two things are always together. There is one important thing I often think about and observe, but I don't talk about it, because it is a difficult thing. It is difficult because they do not value your work. I am not talking about the financial aspect, I mean that they do not respect the work you do. There are some who say: This is just a piece of iron. But I try to explain to my clients that when you go into the forge, but after emerging from the forge, iron in the hands of the master becomes a forged piece. It is not correct to call it 'iron' anymore. Somehow, no matter how much iron you have, you can't build high buildings, there is not a true sense of the word." It's worth mentioning here that there are not many working blacksmiths in Yerevan. And rarer still are the master blacksmiths. They are called blacksmiths. They are not called blacksmiths. They are not called blacksmiths.

Karabakh election offers voters a real choice

Masis Mayilian's candidacy is a challenge not only to the ruling elite but also to Karabakh's young democracy

The presidency was established in 1990. On December 21, the Karabakh parlia-
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On August 12, 2003, the third presidential elections were held in Karabakh. The vote was 89 in favor of the vote. His opponents, Albert Ghazarian and Grigor Afta-
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Aram Antonyan shows off his first decorative metal work, a torch made from a single piece of iron.

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The authorities started using ad

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Argentina

For Azerbaijan, the Council of Europe is a podium for anti-Armenian propaganda

by Tatul Halobanyan

STRASBOURG – Armenia’s foreign minister has submitted a formal letter to the foreign ministers of the general of the Council of Europe in response to the statements made by official members of the ARF-D (Armenian Revolutionary Federation) party, who have repeatedly portrayed Nagorno-Karabakh as separatist territories that do not correspond internationally; it is not regarded as a separate recognized state; and are not in tune with the spirit and values within their country. Rather, they support the territorial integrity of all [Council of Europe] member countries and not part of Armenia.

I have on several occasions repeated that my country is members of the four unrecognised territories within the CIS – Abkhazia, South Ossetia, and Transnistria. Nagorno-Karabakh is a member of the Council of Europe, hence to deny that Nagorno-Karabakh is part of Armenia is absurd. Nagorno-Karabakh is not yet considered internationally; it is not regarded as a separate recognized state; and are not in tune with the spirit and values within their country. Rather, they support the territorial integrity of all [Council of Europe] member countries and not part of Armenia.

I have almost all of their interventions been considered to be in the world not only toward its Jewish citizens but toward all its national minorities. It was only one of the Greek delegates who, in his speech, reminded everyone in passing that the Armenians at the turn of the twentieth century were victims of Genocide; to this the Turks retailed vehemently, saying that it was unacceptable to make comparisons to the “annihila
tion of 6 million Jews to tragic
events in history.”

In the Council of Europe, Azerbaijani representatives have attempted to limit speeches. They spread lies through thousands of copies of letters. During this session, they distributed a letter, “The serious threats of a possible armed conflict in Armenia’s in
avsive plans towards the Autono

Karabakh elections offer voters a real choice

Continued from page A8

ministrative resources and power structures a few months before the campaign started. This is black propaganda against our country. I believe that our public has to persuade people that everything is predetermined. In such circum
cstances, it is difficult for us to have free and transparent elections, which could result in widespread
imposition abroad. We have said over and over that as a more democratic country, we need to re-establish the free and unfree Azerbaijan.”

He insists that administrative measures are being taken to under-
mance his candidacy. “They make it difficult for us to organise our rallies. But that has the opposite effect.”

David Bahamian, an aide to Presi
dent Ghoukassian, insists that no official or administrative leverage is being used against any candidate. “To raise his popularity, Mayilian wants to look like a fighter. Few people show up for his rallies be
cause whatever needed to be said has already been said. Mayilian’s campaign started six months ago. Many people go to Sahakian’s ral
dies because they want to meet the likeliest president.

Mr. Sahakian’s supporters say that his campaign is the only one in the main political groups in Karabakh that do not support the unification of the Artsakh Democratic Party. The Artsakh Democratic Party has the biggest delegation in Azerbaijan, and its members are members of other political groups. Mayilian’s is a very well known figure in Karabakh. For eight years he was considered a senior logistics official in the Karabakh army. He is not campaigning.

Mr. Sahakian’s campaign is supported by the Cauca
sus Media Institute believes the elections offer voters a real choice. If Mr. Sahakian is the unified candi
date, then Mayilian is the al

“Of course, it is possible to say that there’s no choice because all can
ididates are from the ruling circles. But what’s happening with Mayi

Karabakh elections offer voters a real choice

Maa Mr. Minassian and Mr. Safar

Photo: Photo: KarabakhOpen.

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Editorial

One nation across all divides

The earthly remains of Alex and Marie Manoogian were moved this week from Detroit to Armenia so that they may be reinterred at Holy Etchmiadzin next week.

Alex Manoogian was a native of Smyrna. He saw Armenians from Adana or Akhalkalaki, from Karabakh or Kharpert, from Zeitun or Zangezur as part of one great Armenian nation.

In 1957 the Manoogians established the Saint Vartan Cathedral and the Saint Vartan Seminary in Jerusalem. They also established the Alex and Marie Manoogian School in Boca Raton, Fla., and the Alex and Marie Manoogian School in Tehran, Iran – all under the auspices of the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

The Manoogians' commitment to raising generations of Armenians across all boundaries went beyond their enormous role in the Armenian Genocide. At the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, there's the Alex Manoogian chair in Modern Armenian History and the Marie Manoogian chair in Modern Armenian Language and Literature. The Manoogians also endowed scholarships at Armenian studies programs and chairs at UCLA, Columbia University in New York, New York University, the University of Massachusetts, Boston University, the University of Leiden, Holland, the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Southern California, and Bentley College in Watlington, Mass.

The Manoogians also endowed the Alex and Marie Manoogian Cultural Fund in 1968. It has supported the publication and translation of many scholarly and literary works, cultural activities, and has provided assistance to needy Armenian intellectuals and educators throughout the world.

The Manoogians supported the church. They gave to Holy Etchmiadzin; they gave to the Saint Vartan Cathedral and to Diocesan Endowment Fund in New York; they gave to Saint John the Baptist Armenian Church in Southfield, Mich. They also gave to the Meckhitar Monasteries in Vienna and Venice.

The Manoogian legacy continues through a healthy and dynamic AGBU, through the ongoing work of their foundations, through the continued operation of the institutions they endowed, and through the dignity and their descendants and their grandchildren. In a larger sense, their legacy continues through the survival and the dynamism of the Armenian nation.

Louise Manoogian Simone navigated the formidable organization that is the AGBU. Although Ms. Simone in 2002 relinquished many of her duties at the AGBU, she continues to be an active supporter and participant in building the future of the Armenian nation.

Alex and Marie Manoogian's life, their work, and their leadership have inspired many others to follow in their footsteps to the best of their abilities. Not least among them are the next generations of Manoogians.

In 1915, when Alex Manoogian died, the Cathedral of All Armenians flew to Detroit to officiate at his funeral. Now the remains of the Manoogians are in Armenia. They will lie in state at the Monastery of Saint Gayane until July 17, after which they will be reinterred at the hallowed grounds of Holy Etchmiadzin and at the Armenian Catholicosate Cathedral, and in sight of the museum they supported.

They may rest in peace in the soil they tilled throughout their lives.

Commentary

Letters

No mining in Teghut

Sir:

Thank you for bringing attention to the current challenges and choices which will determine Armenia’s environmental integrity long into the future. In June and July articles about the nation’s environmental policies which allow for destructive mining practices and the newly released study on illegal logging highlight important issues that should be of concern to everyone who cares about the survival of the culture, land, and people of Armenia.

Armenia is a very special place for many reasons, and I want to bring to your attention a few more that may be less well known. Located at the convergence of 3 major biogeographic regions, Armenia has within it in seven of the world’s nine climate zones. Although it consists of only 29,000 square kilometers, amounting to 0.05 percent of the land mass of the northern hemisphere, it is home to 40 percent of all landscape types found there.

As a result, Armenia has enormous biologic diversity, including 8,800 plant species, half of which are at risk of extinction; 133 species and 310 varieties of wheat, which was first cultivated there ten thousand years ago; 260 species of trees and bushes; 17,500 invertebrate and 500 vertebrate species of animals, of which 348 species are birds (of the 500 vertebrate species, 300 are rare or declining, and 18 are at risk of extinction); and one-third of the 1,450 reptile species found in the former Soviet Union.

Today, Armenia’s forest cover is at its lowest level in history and it is the concern of most scholars and educators throughout the world. The Manoogians endowed the Alex and Marie Manoogian Cultural Fund in 1968. It has supported the publication and translation of many scholarly and literary works, cultural activities, and has provided assistance to need Armenian intellectuals and educators throughout the world.

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Continued on page Axx

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Continued on page Axx

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Toward the renewal of the Armenian Church

by Catholicsos Aram I

The renewal of the Armenian Church is so complex in nature and so extensive in scope that it challenges our community, the Church, to look within the framework of a pastoral letter. By raising questions pertaining to the subject, I intend to remind us of the pivotal impor- tance of renewal, by sharing a few thoughts within the framework of a pastoral letter. By

The church is essentially a community of faith built upon Jesus Christ. The church is not a “state” in the “enlightened” sense that it does not exist outside of our lives, our thoughts, or our concerns. We are the church: the people of God united in Christ, joined together with the bond of love, and sustained by a common hope and vision.

The prevailing misconception that the church is a mere institution needs to be cor- rected. The nature of the church must not be confused with its nature; its essence must not be altered by its form. In the church, the divine and the human, the ecclesial and the societal, the eternal and the temporal, the constant and the imminent embrace each other. However, the qualitative difference between the divine and the human dimensions need be clearly distinguished.

(a) The Armenian Church is the peo- ple. This is a principal characteristic of all areas of the church’s life. The concept of a “national church” has different connotations in different places. For the Armenian Church it denotes the intimate interaction between church and people. Through its spir- itual, educational, social, and humanitarian activities the Armenian Church is so deeply intertwined with the daily life of the people that it is impossible to draw a line of demarcation between them. We live in the church, the church is our living presence and transforming role perme- ates the entire life of the nation, as a source of inspiration, direction, and guidance, as both for the church and the nation.

However, as we seek to renew the Armenian Church in a new global context, I believe we must consider the following:

(1) The Armenian Church is the peo- ple. Due to its ecclesiological self-understanding and the importance of social justice and humanitar- ian aid, it has also established welfare insti-

(b) Strengthening the relation-

(c) The church as an identity marker. Religion is a strong identity marker in many cultures. In the church, faith and culture has profound implications. The Armenian Church is the people. It is a community of faith that bestows a meaningful dialogue with its environment.

For a Church

In the renewal process the basic traditions, teachings, and practices of the church must be maintained – namely those elements that reflect the ancient continuity, the specificity of the ancient traditions, while making them more responsive to new con-

As Armenians who managed to survive for millennia, we must consider the legacy our ancestors left to us on this precious land, and be responsible to the generations of Arm-

Letters

Letters start on page A16

port unique plants and animals, and a dump site that will be a blight on the environment and a threat to future generations in northern Armenia and pos-

Jun. 30) expressed the man as he is, and ex-

Almost like being there

Sirs: Your fine and insightful profile of Harry Koundakjian (“Celebrating the works of a master photojournalist,” Arts & Culture, June 10) expressed the man as he is, and ex-

It made me regret that my absence from Beirut coincided exactly with the exhibition of his works. Such a timely event should have been more widely publicized. As a result, no accounts was a missed oppor-

Lord, which has become a major feature of modern societies, cannot be ignored by the Armenian Church. Neither can our church ig-

Our church’s role is not just to be an active part in enriching the nation’s culture. Not only does the church have the vision to identify the most responsive areas, including complete deforestation of the land, which became unable to support several hasty changes could lead the church to even greater disintegration.

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We are asking the Armenian government to further analyze the costs and benefits of approving this mine and long-term threat to the health of future generations in northern Armenia and possibly even neighboring countries. The Armenian Church is the people. As we seek to renew the Armenian Church in a new global context, I believe we must consider the following:

(1) The Armenian Church is the peo-

Letters

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port unique plants and animals, and a dump site that will be a blight on the environment and a threat to future generations in northern Armenia and pos-

Jun. 30) expressed the man as he is, and ex-

Almost like being there

Sirs: Your fine and insightful profile of Harry Koundakjian (“Celebrating the works of a master photojournalist,” Arts & Culture, June 10) expressed the man as he is, and ex-

It made me regret that my absence from Beirut coincided exactly with the exhibition of his works. Such a timely event should have been more widely publicized. As a result, no accounts was a missed oppor-

Lord, which has become a major feature of modern societies, cannot be ignored by the Armenian Church. Neither can our church ig-
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