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University of California, Berkeley



Dr. R. Hrair Dekmejian
University of Southern California



Dr. Gaidz Minassian
Foundation for Strategic Research, Paris



Dr. Archalus Tcheknavorian-Asenbauer
Senior Advisor to United Nations, Vienna



Mark Arax
Journalist/Author, Fresno



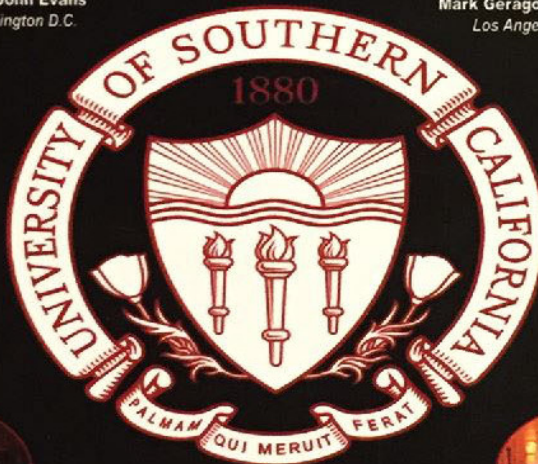
Dr. Andrew Demirdjian
Cal State University, Long Beach



Dr. Levon Marashlian
Glendale Community College



Harut Sassounian
Publisher, The California Courier



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2010, 9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Town & Gown, University of Southern California

Los Angeles, California

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USC Institute of Armenian Studies
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
THE ARMENIAN DIASPORA
Elective Leadership & Worldwide Structure
November 20, 2010
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

- 9:30 – 9:40 **Dr. Richard Hrair Dekmejian, University of Southern California**
Introductory Remarks
- 9:40 – 10:00 **Dr. Z.S. Andrew Demirdjian, Cal State University, Long Beach**
“The Persuasive Power of Numbers: A Call for Political Clout”
- 10:00 – 10:20 **Dr. Archalus Tcheknavorian-Asenbauer, Senior UN Advisor, Vienna**
“Armenian Unity and International Politics”
- 10:20 – 10:40 **Q & A**
- 10:40 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 – 11:20 **Mr. Harut Sassounian, Publisher, California Courier**
“Proposal for a Popularly Elected Structure to Represent Diaspora Armenians”
- 11:20 – 11:40 **Dr. Gaidz Minassian, Foundation for Strategic Research, Paris**
“Toward a World Council of Armenians: Why, How, Who?”
- 11:40 – 12:00 **Q & A**
- 12:00 – 12:20 **Governor George Deukmejian**
“Personal Reflections of California’s First Armenian Governor”
Introduction by Hon. Paul Ignatius, Former Secretary of the Navy
- 12:20 – 1:00 **Lunch**
- 1:00 – 1:05 **Hon. Grigor Hovhannissian, Consul General, Republic of Armenia**
Welcoming Remarks
- 1:05 – 1:20 **Mark Geragos, Esquire**
“Diaspora Unity and the Pursuit of Genocide Restitution”
- 1:20 – 1:40 **Ambassador John Marshall Evans**
“Maximizing Influence in a World of Nation-States: A Challenge for the Armenian Diaspora”
Introduction by Mr. Charles Ghailian, Chairman, USC Institute Leadership Council
- 1:40 – 2:00 **Mr. Mark Arax, Journalist/Author**
“The Power of Speaking to the Media with One Collective Voice”
- 2:00 – 2:20 **Q & A**
- 2:20 – 2:40 **Coffee Break**
- 2:40 – 3:00 **Dr. Levon Marshlian, Glendale Community College**
“The Necessity and Difficulty of Establishing a Diaspora Congress”
- 3:00 – 3:20 **Dr. Stephan H. Astourian, UC Berkeley,**
“The Traditional Armenian Parties and the Problem of Pan-Armenian Coordination”
- 3:20 – 3:40 **Dr. Richard Hrair Dekmejian, USC and Dr. Nyree Derderian, Stanford University**
“Models and Modalities of Creating a Trans-Diaspora Framework: Concluding Thoughts”
- 3:40 – 4:30 **Round Table and Q & A**

We wish to acknowledge with gratitude the continued support of Mr. Charles Ghailian, Chairman of the Leadership Council, USC Institute of Armenian Studies, who has undertaken financial responsibility for today's symposium.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Mark Geragos, as Principal with the internationally known trial lawyer firm of Geragos & Geragos, has represented many prominent figures, including Whitewater figure Susan McDougal, former Rep. Gary Condit, Roger Clinton, actress Winona Ryder, pop star Michael Jackson, hip hop stars Nate Dogg, Puffy, Scott Peterson and most recently the Sarkissian family whose daughter died when Cigna Corporation refused to authorize a liver transplant. Mark was a lead lawyer in the Federal Class Action Lawsuit against NY Life Insurance for policies issued to Armenian Genocide victims. Mark Geragos has won many awards and is regarded by peers as one of Los Angeles' Superlawyers.

John Marshall Evans, formerly U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, gained notoriety in 2005 by publicly dissenting from the stated policy of the U.S. government on the Armenian Genocide. A veteran of the U.S. Foreign Service, Amb. Evans had no Armenian ancestors or family connections, but over the course of his historical studies and diplomatic career, became convinced that a gross injustice was being perpetrated against the Armenians through the denialist policies of the Turkish Government and the U.S. Government's tacit acceptance of them. He decided to take a measured public stand, but then paid for his "heresy" by being dismissed from his post and forced into early retirement, although not without a fight over the issue in the U.S. Senate. Over the course of his thirty-five-year career, Ambassador Evans served with distinction in diplomatic posts in Tehran, Prague, Moscow, Brussels (NATO), St. Petersburg and Washington, reaching the rank of Minister-Counselor. A native of Williamsburg, Virginia, educated at Yale and Columbia, he is an avid student of Russian history who devoted a sabbatical year to investigating the decline of the Ottoman Empire, the setting in which the tragic events of 1915 occurred. Now retired from the Foreign Service, Mr. Evans makes his home in Washington with his wife, the former Donna Chamberlain.

Mark Arax is an award-winning journalist/writer who worked at the *Los Angeles Times* for two decades. He is author of three critically acclaimed books: *In My Father's Name* (1997), *The King of California* (2005), and *West of the West* (2009). He is teaching literary journalism at Cal State University, Fresno this spring and working on his fourth book.

Dr. Levon Marashlian is Professor of History at Glendale Community College, where he teaches "The Armenian Diaspora" and other courses in Armenian, Middle Eastern, Russian, and US history and politics. He has also taught at UC Irvine, UCLA, and CSUN. He was a Fulbright Scholar in Armenia in 1994, he delivered a paper on the Armenian Question in Ankara in 1990, testified before the House International Relations Committee in 1996, and participated in the First World Armenian Congress in Paris in 1979. His publications include *The Armenian Question and Turkish-American Relations* (Istanbul 2000, in Turkish) and *Politics and Demography: Armenians, Turks, and Kurds in the Ottoman Empire* (1991), and numerous articles. He holds a Ph.D. and M.A. from UCLA, and B.A. from the University of Illinois. He is a US Army Vietnam Veteran (1968-69).

Dr. Stephan Astourian is the Executive Director of the Armenian Studies Program at the University of California, Berkeley, and William Saroyan Adjunct Assistant Professor in Armenian and Caucasian history in its Department of History. He has published extensively on Armenian, Ottoman, and Azerbaijani history and is a member of various academic boards, including the Advisory Committee for the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies at UCB. His latest research on Armenian-Turkish and Armenian-Kurdish relations in the nineteenth century, "*The Silence of the Land: Agrarian Relations, Ethnicity, and Power*," will appear in *A Question of Genocide 1915: Armenians and Turks at the End of the Ottoman Empire*, edited by Ronald Grigor Suny, Fatma Muge Gocek, and Norman M. Naimark (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010).

Dr. Richard Hrair Dekmejian is Professor of Political Science at the University of Southern California and founding Director of the USC Institute of Armenian Studies. A U.S. Army veteran, Dr. Dekmejian has worked as consultant to U.S. federal agencies, corporations and foreign governments. He holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University and his teaching and research areas include: Political Leadership, Genocide Studies, Terrorism, U.S. Foreign Policy, Middle East Politics, Armenian Studies, and Strategic Risk Analysis. Among his publications are: *Spectrum of Terror* (2007); *The Just Prince: A Manual of Leadership* (2003); *Troubled Waters: The Geopolitics of the Caspian Region* (2001, 2003); *Ethnic Lobbies in U.S. Foreign Policy* (1997); *Islam in Revolution* (1985, 1995); *Patterns of Political Leadership* (1975); and *Egypt Under Nasser* (1971, 1972).

Dr. Nyree Derderian is Vice Chairperson of the Armenian Relief Society of Western USA. She was born and raised in Southern California and has been very active in the Armenian community. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science and her J.D. in International Law from Stanford University, specializing in Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Society.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Dr. Z. S. Andrew Demirdjian's research interests lie in social and behavioral sciences. He has published hundreds of articles and editorials and received over twelve best article/author awards. His latest textbook *Perspectives in Consumer Behavior: An Anthropological Approach* was published in 2008; *The Demon in Diplomacy: Alliances Based on Affinity* (on U. S. reaffirmation of the Armenian Genocide) was published in 2009; and *Challenges and Opportunities in a Changing World: Insights, Innovations, and Trends* was published also in 2009. In 2010, he published two books: *The Triangle of Trade In The Cradle of Civilization* (establishing Armenia as being a constituent member of Mesopotamia and as the bona fide birthplace of civilization) and *The Viability of a Worldwide Armenian Organization: Questing for Western Armenia and Cilicia* (emphasizing the rationale and methodology for a worldwide organization).

Dr. Archalus Tcheknavorian-Asenbauer has held several leading positions at the United Nations, including Senior UNDP Advisor for Climate Change for Caribbean; Senior Adviser for Environment in Europe and Caucasus; and Deputy Director General of the UN Industrial Development Organization in Vienna. She holds a doctorate in Chemical Engineering from Vienna Technical University, and served as associate professor of chemistry and researcher at the Austrian oil refinery. Her many publications have appeared in UN special issues on energy, environment, industrial policy and climate change. In 2007, she published *Toxic Waste, Obsolete Pesticides*, sponsored by the European Parliament.

Harut Sassounian is President of the United Armenian Fund – a coalition of seven major Armenian-American organizations; Senior Vice President of Kirk Kerkorian's Lincy Foundation; Publisher of *The California Courier* newspaper; and a TV commentator. He was a human rights delegate at the United Nations for 10 years and international marketing executive for Procter & Gamble in Geneva, Switzerland, 1978-82. He holds a Master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University and an MBA from Pepperdine University. He is the author of *The Armenian Genocide: The World Speaks Out, Documents and Declarations, 1915-2005*, published in English and Arabic. He serves on the Leadership Council of the USC Institute of Armenian Studies.

Dr. Gaidz Minassian, born in Versailles, France, holds a Doctorate in political science. He teaches at Sciences Po Paris Institute (International Relations) and is an Associate Researcher at the Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS). He is also chief web editor at *Le Monde*. He is the author of several books, including: *South Caucasus, the New Cold War*; *Geopolitics of Armenia*; and soon to appear *Gray Zone*; and *Eurasia: Challenges and Prospects*.

Gov. George Deukmejian graduated from Siena College, New York and St John's University in Brooklyn where he studied law. He moved to California in 1955, following his service in the US Army. He pursued private law practice and entered politics in 1962 as a Republican State Assemblyman from Long Beach. After serving four years in the Assembly (1962-66), he was elected to the State Senate where he rose to become leader of the Republican group. In 1978, he successfully ran for the post of Attorney-General. He was elected 35th Governor of California in 1982 and re-elected in 1986. After a distinguished political career, the Governor became a partner in Sidley & Austin, a national and international law firm from 1991 to 2000, when he retired.

Hon. Grigor Hovhannissian is the Consul General of the Republic of Armenia. He has extensive academic and professional experience in international affairs. He graduated from the department of Arab Studies at the Yerevan State University and holds MA degrees from Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Tufts University, and has undertaken post-graduate studies at Haigazian University in Beirut. For over ten years, he held positions with the UN Secretariat in The Great Lakes of Africa, Republic of Congo, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Jordan, and Lebanon. From 2006 to 2008, he headed the "Shushi Revival" fund, taught Middle East politics at Yerevan State University, and served as advisor to the Armenian Foreign Minister. He is fluent in English, French, Arabic and Russian.