

Misguided American Apology to Turkey Encourages Darfur Genocide

By apologizing to genocidal usurper Turkey, the US State and Defense Departments unwittingly encourage Sudan to complete the Darfur Genocide

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Soon after the Armenian Genocide resolution HR 106's passage in the U.S. House Foreign Relations Committee, two top-ranking officials of the Bush administration rushed to Ankara to deliver very weird apologies.

Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Eric Edelman, a former US ambassador to Ankara, and Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Dan Fried -- met over the October 13 weekend with their Turkish counterparts with regards to the genocide resolution. They expressed regret on behalf of their respective secretaries for the House committee choosing to go ahead and pass the resolution, reported the www.defenselink.mil.

These two officials conveniently overlooked the fact that the President himself had acknowledged the Armenian Genocide in 2000.

In a November 10 article in the British daily newspaper the Independent, titled "Holocaust denial in the White House," Robert Fisk wrote: "There was, briefly, a historic moment for Bush to walk tall after the US House Foreign Relations Committee voted last month to condemn the mass slaughter of Armenians as an act of genocide. ... But as soon as Turkey's fossilized generals started to threaten Bush, I knew he would give in. ... Now listen to Mr. Bush as he snaps to attention before the Turkish general staff. 'We all deeply regret the tragic suffering (sic) of the Armenian people... But this resolution is not the right response to these historic mass killings. Its passage would do great harm to our relations with a key ally in NATO and in the global war on terror.' I loved the last bit about the 'global war on terror'. Nobody -- save for the Jews of Europe -- has suffered 'terror' more than the benighted Armenians of Turkey in 1915. But that NATO should matter more than the integrity of history -- that NATO might one day prove to be so important that the Bushes of this world may have to equivocate over the Jewish Holocaust to placate a militarily resurgent Germany -- beggars belief."

It is absurd that an apology by Edelman and Fried was made for a vote by the freely elected US House members. It is also mind-boggling that the American taxpayers' funds are being misspent for the purpose of keeping Turkey's apologists like Edelman and Fried on their jobs. In broad daylight, they both acted like Turkey's proxies within the Defense and State Departments.

These two officials shamelessly encouraged Ankara to cover up its crime and to intimidate the American President and lawmakers into silence on the genocide issue.

In order to bring some sense of healthy orientation to our foreign policy, the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) has launched a nationwide campaign of action and awareness.

It encourages the constituents to contact Eric Edelman, Under Secretary of Defense at (703) 697-7200; Daniel Fried, Assistant Secretary of State at (202) 647-9626 in order to express their disapproval of these shameful actions.

The ANCA circular advises: "please politely share your views with the public servant who made

this cowardly apology. Points to consider making in your message to these officials: 1) I'm ashamed that you apologized for a human rights vote in the U.S. Congress; 2) As Americans, we should never apologize for our nation's devotion to human rights; 3) I would like a written explanation of why you expressed "regret" to Turkey."

These misguided apologies by the U.S. to Turkey that continues to occupy the ancestral lands of the Armenian, Greek and Arab victims sends the wrong message to the world about the core American values on human rights. They also encourage another genocidal government, Sudan, to continue its crime against Darfur unabated.

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