

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 160

A resolution marking the anniversary of the anti-Greek pogrom in Turkey,
on September 6, 1955.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 7 (legislative day, JULY 10), 1995

Mr. D'AMATO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

A resolution marking the anniversary of the anti-Greek
pogrom in Turkey, on September 6, 1955.

Whereas, in September 1955, there existed a Greek minority
population of 100,000 in Istanbul, Turkey;

Whereas, on the night of September 6–7, 1955, a pogrom
against the Greek community began in Istanbul;

Whereas anti-Greek rioters attacked, pillaged, gutted and de-
stroyed more than 2,000 Greek homes, 4,200 Greek
shops and stores, 73 Greek Orthodox churches, 52 Greek
schools, eight Greek cemeteries, all three major Greek
newspaper plants, and dozens of Greek factories, hotels,
restaurants, and warehouses in Istanbul;

Whereas 15 Greeks were killed in the pogrom or died subse-
quently, and 32 were seriously injured;

Whereas as many as 200 women were raped by rioters;

Whereas the United States Consul General in Istanbul reported that police stood idly by or cheered on the rioting mobs;

Whereas the State Department received confirmation of “elaborate advanced planning for widespread destruction of the property of the indigenous Greek community,” involving careful preparations by many individuals;

Whereas American journalist Frederick Sondern, Jr., writing at the time for Readers Digest, described the events of that night as “. . . one of the wildest eruptions of mob fury and hysteria in modern times . . .”;

Whereas homes of Greek officers stationed at NATO headquarters in the Turkish city of Izmir were also attacked and destroyed;

Whereas rioters attacked and burned down the Greek Consulate in Izmir and the Greek Pavilion at the Izmir International festival;

Whereas Turkish authorities failed at the time to convict a single rioter, out of thousands, for any crime committed during the pogrom;

Whereas five years later, after a military coup in Turkey, the former Prime Minister and acting Foreign Minister at the time of the pogrom were charged with, and convicted of, numerous criminal actions, including the instigation of the anti-Greek riots;

Whereas the pogrom marked the beginning of the end of the Greek community’s presence in Istanbul, numbering about 2,000 in 1995; and

Whereas September 6, 1995 will mark the 40th Anniversary
of the pogrom: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the
2 President should—

3 (1) take all appropriate steps to observe and
4 commemorate the loss of life and property, and the
5 numerous injuries and offenses, which took place
6 during the pogrom by proclaiming September 6,
7 1995 as a day of remembrance for the victims of
8 these attacks; and

9 (2) urge all Americans to honor the victims of
10 the pogrom in the appropriate manner.

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