

and independent nation—a nation as determined as its citizens. In its short existence, the Republic of Armenia has survived the earthquake of 1988, the dissolution of the Soviet Union and a blockade by its neighbors. Truly, the spirit of the nation reflects the spirit of its people.

Despite these hardships, the young republic has made economic progress. As the first of the former Soviet republics to record economic growth, Armenia has kept inflation under control and made great advances toward privatization. Now, it is incumbent upon nations like the United States to continue our policy of engagement and assistance, as Armenia continues its efforts toward establishing a democratic society.

The United States has also benefitted from a strong Armenian presence. With their firm resolve and dedication to democracy, the more than one million Armenian Americans have made significant contributions to the cultural, political and economic life of this nation. At the same time, by preserving their Armenian faith and traditions, they have achieved a balance that enriches our diverse and vital American culture.

The tragic events of 1915–1923 contain in them some important moral lessons. We now realize that a quick and decisive response by the international community might have prevented the persecution and death of more than 1.5 million Armenians. Unfortunately, the world's indifference to their plight not only sealed the futures of the Armenian victims, but paved the way for similar tragedies in the years that followed.

It is imperative, Mr. President, that no nation or individual ever forgets the injustices suffered by the Armenians in 1915. Only by striving for human rights and civil liberties for all people can the promises of human dignity be achieved. In that regard, the highest honor we can accord the heroic Armenian people is to continue the struggle for freedom wherever we are, be it America, Armenia, or anywhere else across the globe. By pursuing that mission, hopefully we can prevent such tragedies from happening again.●

ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to observe the 82d anniversary of the Armenian genocide. It is only by keeping the memory of this dark time alive will we keep it from occurring again.

On April 24, 1915, over 200 Armenian religious, political and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople—now Istanbul—and killed, marking the beginning of an organized campaign to eliminate the Armenian presence from the Ottoman Empire.

Thousands of Armenians were subjected to torture, deportation, slavery and ultimately, murder. In the 8 years

between 1915 and 1923, roughly 1.5 million men, women and children lost their lives to this genocide. More than 500,000 were removed from their homeland, many of whom perished in forced marches ending in the deserts of Syria.

The Armenians were able to gain their freedom for a short time in 1918, but in 1920, when the former Soviet Union joined the Turkish attack, they were again overpowered. It was only in 1991, following the breakup of the Soviet Union, that the new Republic of Armenia was born. Today, we pay tribute to the courage and strength of a people who would not know defeat.

Yet, independence has not meant an end to their struggle. There are still those who question the reality of the Armenian slaughter. There are those who have failed to recognize its very existence. But we must not allow the horror of the Armenian genocide to be either diminished or denied.

The pages of history are replete with stories of the atrocities man commits against his fellow man. And upon those pages, this massacre is one of the most vile stains. We must learn the lessons of the past well, and never tire of the fight to end prejudice and discrimination. We must show the world the Armenian people did not suffer in vain.●

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN VICTIMS

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 82d anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Today we remember the Armenians who died during the years 1915 to 1923 at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Turkish government systematically murdered 1.5 million Armenians and drove half a million into exile. On the eve of the first World War, 2.5 million Armenians lived in the Ottoman Empire. Following the brutal Ottoman Turkish campaign, less than 100,000 remained. These Armenians were victims of a policy explicitly intended to isolate, exile, and even extinguish the Armenian population.

As we look at world events today—in Bosnia, in Rwanda, and elsewhere—we see a repetition of what happened in Armenia. In commemorating this day, we remember those who died, and condemn violations of human rights at anytime in the past or the future. We all know that, in the context of world politics, human rights violations are far too common and the response to those violations is often tame at best.

As we meet here today, it is likely that somewhere, a political prisoner is being beaten by the police or armed forces, or by some paramilitary group whose members might include police officers or soldiers. It is likely that a union organizer is being detained or harassed by authorities, that a woman is being raped by government thugs, that a newspaper is being shut down, or that a prisoner has “disappeared.” It is equally likely that the people respon-

sible for such outrages will never be held accountable.

As Americans we must keep a vigilant watch on our world so that the horrors that occurred in Armenia 82 years ago might not be repeated again, and again, and again. History means nothing if we do not learn from it. On a day like today, we must remember what we stand for, and ensure that the U.S. continues to be a beacon of strength and hope for the heroes that stand up and survive such atrocities. These deaths should not be in vain.

I am proud to commemorate this important occasion today.●

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the 82d anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

In the 1930's, someone questioned Adolph Hitler about the possible consequences of his plan for the systematic elimination of the Jews. Hitler seemed to believe that there would be none. He allegedly responded, “Who, after all, today remembers the Armenians?”

One of my constituents, Noyemzar Alexanian, remembers. On a spring morning in 1915, when she was 6 years old, the Kurdish calvary surrounded her village. They rounded up all the men and teen-aged boys, tied their hands with rope, took them to a distant field and stabbed them to death. Her father escaped to a neighboring village but was soon discovered. Noyemzar says she remembers her father being led away while her mother cried for help. This little 6-year-old girl then “watched the white shirt of her father as he was led up a mountainside by the soldiers. The white shirt became a dot, and then it was gone.” Noyemzar's father was stabbed to death. Over the next few years, as she was shuttled from the houses of strangers to orphanages, Noyemzar lost her two sisters. But still she did not lose hope. After several years, she and the remaining members of her family escaped to Cuba. She later settled in Rhode Island with her husband, Krikor, another refugee from Armenia. Noyemzar Alexanian is now 88 years old, and every day she remembers.

Mr. President, old and young around the world today remember the Armenian holocaust. We remember that on this date in 1915, the Ottoman Empire and the successor Turkish nationalist regime began a brutal policy of deportation and murder. Over the next 8 years 1.5 million Armenians would be massacred at the hands of the Turks and another 500,000 would have their property confiscated and be driven from their homeland. Engrossed in its own problems at the time, the world did little as the population was devastated.

Despite having already undergone such terrible persecution and hardship, the people of the Armenian Republic

still suffer today. The peace talks recently concluded in Moscow regrettably made no progress toward the resolution of the Karabagh conflict. Turkey continues to blockade humanitarian aid to Armenia.

However, the Armenian people look hopefully to the future. Their quest for peace and democracy continues to inspire people around the world. Armenians who have emigrated to other countries, especially those in my home State of Rhode Island, bring their traditions with them. They enrich the culture and contribute much to the society of their new homelands.

The continuing reports of the recent atrocities committed in Bosnia reaffirm the importance of our commitment to always remember the Armenian genocide. As long as hate and intolerance are a part of our world, we must be vigilant. We must stand as witnesses to protect people from persecution for the simple reason that they are different.

I hope to visit Armenia in the near future. I wish to see the treasures of that land firsthand and pay tribute to the indomitable spirit of the people of Armenia. Until that time, I want to ensure the Armenian community that we remember. *Menk panav chenk mornar.*●

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 562

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11:30 a.m., on Friday, April 25, the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 562 and the Senate then immediately begin consideration under the following limitation: 1 hour for debate on the bill equally divided in the usual form, there will be no amendments in order to the bill, and following the conclusion or yielding back of time the bill will be read for a third time with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RELATING TO JURISDICTION FOR LAWSUITS AGAINST TERRORIST STATES

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1225, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1225) to make a technical correction to title 28, United States Code, relating to jurisdiction for lawsuits against terrorist states.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be deemed read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and that any statements relating to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1225) was deemed read three times and passed.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1997

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Friday, April 25.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROBERTS. I further ask unanimous consent that on Friday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and there be then a period of morning business until the hour of 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each with the following exceptions: Senator SMITH of Oregon for 30 minutes, Senator DORGAN 30 minutes, Senator DASCHLE or his designee for 30 minutes, Senator THOMAS or his designee for 60 minutes; from 10:30 to 11:30, Senator GRAMS for 10 minutes, Senator KENNEDY for 20 minutes, Senator CONRAD for 10 minutes, Senator WELLSTONE for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, tomorrow from 9:30 in the morning until 11:30, the Senate will be in a period of morning business to accommodate a number of Senators wishing to speak.

At 11:30, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 562, the reverse mortgage bill. Under the agreement, there will be 1 hour for debate on that bill. However it is our understanding that no Senator will request a rollcall on passage, therefore, with that in mind, Senators should not expect rollcall votes to occur during Friday's session of the Senate.

On Monday, April 28, the Senate will debate the motion to proceed to S. 543, regarding protections to volunteers. A cloture motion will be filed tomorrow on this issue, which will call for a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 543 on Tuesday of next week. Therefore, the next rollcall vote will occur on Tuesday, April 29, at 2:15 p.m. If cloture is invoked on Tuesday, it is expected that the Senate will proceed to the bill on Tuesday. Therefore, additional votes can be expected to occur on Tuesday on amendments to the volunteer protection bill.

The Senate could also be asked to turn to any other Legislative or Executive Calendar items that may be cleared for action.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:48 p.m., adjourned until Friday, April 25, 1997, at 9:30 a.m.