

HOUSTON, TX,
April 5, 2001.

Senator JOHN KERRY,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR KERRY: Since I work with small business owners every day to help them obtain the financing they require to start a new business, acquire a business or expand an existing business, I wanted you to know that I strongly support you and your efforts regarding Amendment 183.

Thank you for your continued good work.
Sincerely,

CHAIRMAN ROSALES.

TAIWAN ARMS SALE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the Administration recently informed Congress of its arms sales package to Taiwan. Having long followed political developments both in Taiwan and the People's Republic of China, PRC, and having visited both sides of the Strait, I wanted to make a few brief comments.

First, weapon systems and military hardware aside, the political message transmitted to Taipei through the sales is that America's commitment to Taiwan remains steadfast and strong. This is an appropriate message delivered in a timely manner by the new Administration and with the encouragement and support of Congress.

Second, the package generally reflects a balanced approach to Taiwan's defensive needs, particularly on and under the sea. While the Arleigh Burke-class destroyers equipped with the Aegis radar system are not part of this year's sale, and would not be operational until 2010, the Administration has left open the option to pursue Aegis-equipped destroyers at a future date. Aegis is still on the table. America has bolstered Taiwan's defensive capabilities through Kidd-class destroyers, P-3 aircraft, submarines, and other weapons, and has deferred decisions on other sales, such as tanks and helicopters, pending a review of Taiwan's ground forces needs.

Finally, the PRC must understand that its continued buildup of short-range ballistic missiles opposite Taiwan and aggressive modernization of its military for offensive purposes will all but guarantee the future sale of Aegis-equipped destroyers, or other technologically advanced weapons system. If the Mainland is serious in wanting a peaceful resolution of differences with Taiwan, senior military and civilian leaders must accept America's obligations under the Taiwan Relations Act to provide "defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability."

Simply put, every Chinese offensive military action will have a Taiwan-U.S. defensive reaction. Beijing can make clear its intentions by immediately renouncing the option to use force against Taiwan, and by reducing its military deployments across the Strait.

I intend to continue to follow political and military developments not just in Taiwan and the PRC but throughout the region. I urge Beijing and Taipei to continue dialogue as the means of resolving their differences.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to speak today in order to commemorate the Armenian Genocide. As you know, today marks the 86th anniversary of this tragic occurrence. It is important that we take time to remember and honor the victims, and pay respect to the survivors that are still with us.

April 24th marks the inception of brutal genocidal campaign to eliminate Armenians from the Turkish Ottoman Empire. From the period of 1915-1923, approximately one and a half million Armenians perished under the rule of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. During this horrific period, the Armenian people fell victim to deportation, conscription, torture, starvation and murder.

The Armenian genocide was the result of a consciously orchestrated government plan. The German Chancellor to the Ottoman Empire, Count Wolff-Metternich, stated at the time that, "In its attempt to carry out its purpose to resolve the Armenian question by the destruction of the Armenian race, the Turkish government has refused to be deterred neither by our representations, nor by those of the American Embassy, nor by the delegate of the Pope . . ."

In a century filled with loss and bloodshed, the Armenian Genocide marked the first effort of the century to systematically eliminate an entire people. Unfortunately, the world did not learn from this massacre, and the past 86 years have been stained by reminders that there are those who will stop at no means to spread their agendas of hate and intolerance.

Nobel Laureate writer Elie Wiesel has said that the denial of genocide constitutes a "double killing" for it seeks to rewrite history by absolving the perpetrators of violence while ignoring the suffering of the victims. We must acknowledge the horrors perpetrated against the Armenian people to preserve the memory of the victims and to remind the world that we cannot and will not forget these crimes against humanity. However, it is not enough to simply remember those who have perished. We must speak out against such tragedies, and dedicate ourselves to ensuring that evils such as the Armenian Genocide are not revisited on our planet. This is the highest tribute we can pay to the victims of any genocide.

The Armenian people have preserved their culture, faith and identity for over a thousand years. In the last century alone, the Armenian people witnessed the horrors of two World Wars and several decades of Soviet dominance in order to establish modern Armenia. I hope all my Senate colleagues

will join me in honoring and remembering the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today marks the 86th anniversary of the beginning of one of the great human tragedies of history, the Armenian genocide. Between 1915-1923 as many as 1.5 million Armenians were systematically murdered by the Ottoman Empire and hundreds of thousands more were forced to flee their homeland. These Armenians were victims of a policy intended to isolate, exile and even extinguish the Armenian population.

Although nearly a century has passed since this tragedy occurred, we must not wipe it from our consciousness and let it become the forgotten past. Rather, we must continually learn from mistakes of the past so that they are not repeated again and again in the future. Recent history in Bosnia, Rwanda and Kosovo tells us that systematic brutality, that the attempt to wipe out an entire population because of its ethnicity, is still possible. The atrocities that took place in these countries remind us that we still have much to learn.

The international community has made some progress, standing up for justice, holding those responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law accountable for their crimes. By establishing war crimes tribunals, like the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, ICTY, and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, ICTR, we have begun to send the clear message that such atrocious crimes will not go unpunished. I am pleased that the former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic, who has been wanted on international war crimes charges for his role in the campaign of violence and hate in the Balkans, has finally been arrested. I hope that his arrest marks the beginning of full justice being served with regard to him and others responsible for the unspeakable crimes committed in the Former Yugoslavia.

Each day we continue to read about and witness ethnic violence and violations of human rights in countries across the globe. Sadly, in many places this is simply the norm. Clearly there is a great deal of work that still needs to be done to prevent human tragedy. So today as we commemorate the Armenian genocide, let us honor the men, women and children whose lives were lost between 1915-1923, as well as the other countless victims of violence throughout history, and recommit ourselves to efforts that foster acceptance of others, respect for human rights, democratic principles, and peaceful relations between people and nations at all levels.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today marks the 86th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. I rise today to acknowledge and commemorate this terrible crime and to help ensure that it will never happen again.

On April 24, 1915, the Ottoman Empire launched a brutal and unconscionable policy of mass murder. Over an eight year period, 1.5 million Armenians were killed, and another 500,000 were driven from their homes, their property and land confiscated.

We who enjoy the blessings of freedom and liberty must commemorate this event to ensure that it does not happen again. Far too often during this century we have remained silent as men, women, and children have been singled out, rounded up, and killed because of their race, ethnicity, or religion. By acknowledging the Armenian Genocide we state loud and clear: Never again.

Never again will we let brutal violations of human rights go without condemnation. Never again will we turn our backs on the oppressed and give comfort to the oppressors. Never again will we fail to stand up for justice and human dignity. Never again will we allow genocide to be perpetrated on this Earth.

Even as we remember the tragedy and honor the dead, we also honor the living. I am proud that my home State of California is home to a vibrant Armenian American community, a half a million strong. They have enriched the culture of our state and have participated in every aspect of civic life. They are a shining example of a people who overcame the horrors of the past to create a better future.

Let us never forget the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Let us ensure that they did not die in vain. Let us come together to remember the crimes of the past and to pledge to one another that they will not happen again in the future. Let us look ahead with Armenia and the Armenian American community to a brighter tomorrow.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 86th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. From 1915 to 1923, 1.5 million Armenians were executed in the first genocide of the 20th Century.

Sadly, there are some people who still deny the very existence of this period which saw the institutionalized slaughter of the Armenian people and the dismantling of Armenian culture. To those who would question these events, I refer them to numerous documents kept by the United States National Archives, which detail these horrifying events. The entire Armenian population in the Ottoman Empire was forcibly removed from their historic homeland in present-day eastern Turkey. A million and a half people were massacred and another 500,000 were exiled. As the United States Ambassador to the Ottoman State at the time, Henry Morgenthau, said, "I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915."

Tragically, the Armenian genocide was the first in a series of genocides in the 20th Century. Adolf Hitler, in preparing his genocide plans for the Jews, predicted that no one would remember the atrocities he was about to unleash. After all, he asked, "Who remembers the Armenians?"

And that is why we come together every year at this time to remember. The genocide of the Armenians did take place, and we do remember. That memory must be kept alive, to keep us vigilant in our efforts to prevent such atrocities from ever happening again.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to join with Armenians throughout the United States, in Armenia, and around the world in commemorating the 86th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

This week, members and friends of the Armenian community will gather together to remember April 24, 1915. On that day, nationalist forces of the Ottoman Empire started an eight year campaign of massacre and deportation that would impact the lives of every Armenian in Asia Minor.

Armenian men, women, and children of all ages fell victim to murder, rape, torture, and starvation. By 1923, an estimated 1.5 million Armenians had been systematically murdered and another 500,000 had their property stolen and were driven from their homeland. With World War I occupying center stage at the time, the Armenian people's situation went unaided.

Unfortunately, the residents of Armenia still suffer today. Armenian efforts at democracy and economic development have been hindered by regional conflict, natural disasters and internal strife. Yet, despite these setbacks, the Armenian people have maintained a persevering spirit that has kept hope alive. In the past few months, optimism has grown as internationally mediated peace talks between Armenian President Kocharian and Azerbaijani President Aliyev have made progress.

Commemoration of the Armenian genocide is important not to keep alive the memory of those Armenians who died, but to remind the world of its duty. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu noted in 1999, "It is sadly true what a cynic has said, that we learn from the history that we do not learn from history. And yet it is possible that if the world had been conscious of the genocide that was committed by the Ottoman Turks against the Armenians, the first genocide of the twentieth century, then perhaps humanity might have been more alert to the warning signs that were given before Hitler's madness was unleashed on an unbelieving world." It is my hope that the world has begun to pay attention to history because, unlike in 1915, the international community heeded the warning signs in Kosovo and did not sit back and watch, but reacted quickly and decisively. We must always bear witness to the terrors of yesterday so that we can respond to acts of oppres-

sion in the future, ensuring that the deaths of all victims of hatred and prejudice are not in vain.

Therefore, on the 86th anniversary of the terrible tragedy of the Armenian genocide we remember the past and rededicate ourselves to supporting Armenia as it looks to the future.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, April 24 marks the 86th anniversary of the beginning of one of the most tragic events in history, the Armenian Genocide. In 1915, the Ottoman Turkish Government embarked on a brutal policy of ethnic extermination. Over the next eight years, 1.5 million Armenians were killed, and more than half a million were forced from their homeland into exile.

In the years since then, the Armenian diaspora has thrived in the United States and in many other countries, bringing extraordinary vitality and achievement to communities across America and throughout the world. The Armenian Assembly of America, the Armenian National Committee of America, and other distinguished groups deserve great credit for their impressive work in maintaining the proud history and heritage of the Armenian people, and guaranteeing that the Armenian Genocide will never be forgotten.

One of the enduring achievements of the survivors of the Genocide and their descendants has been to keep its tragic memory alive, in spite of continuing efforts by those who refuse to acknowledge the atrocities that took place. In Massachusetts, the Armenian Genocide is part of that curriculum in every public school. Legislation was introduced last year in the U.S. House of Representatives to support recognition of the Armenian Genocide, and the French government approved a law to recognize the Armenian Genocide in January.

It is time for all governments, political leaders and peoples everywhere to recognize the Armenian Genocide. These annual commemorations are an effective way to pay tribute to the courage and suffering and triumph of the Armenian people, and to ensure that such atrocities will never happen again to any people on earth.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY last month. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to detail a heinous crime that occurred in my own home State of Oregon in 1995. A twenty-seven year old Stockton, California man murdered a Medford, OR couple, Roxanne Ellis, 53 and Michelle Abdill, 42. The women, who ran a property management business, disappeared December 4, 1995