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GENERAL

IT 64-13

HW

September 20, 1974

Dear Mr. Kohetian:

On behalf of President Ford, I want to respond to your letter of August 14, in which you refer to the position taken by the United States Representative on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, concerning a progress report on genocide. According to the report I requested from the Department of State, it is not correct, as some news sources appear to have reported, that Mr. Hoffman agreed with the Turkish representative that a reference to Armenian massacres in the report be deleted. You may be interested in the following background.

The report in question was submitted by a Special Rapporteur, Mr. Nicedeme Rughashyankike, who is preparing a Study of the Question of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide at the request of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The Subcommittee is a subsidiary body of the Commission on Human Rights. The study has yet to be completed, and the report which was briefly considered by the Commission was a progress report prepared by the Special Rapporteur in September 1973.

At the meeting of the Commission held on March 6, 1974, the Turkish representative objected to a paragraph in the report which described the massacres of Armenians as "genocide," and he proposed that it be deleted. The United States Representative did not support this proposal, but rather noted that the author of the study should be given wide latitude in his work. He stated that care should be taken to present a balanced picture, particularly when historical sources are used.

The discussion in the Commission ended with the observation of the Chairman that views expressed would be made known to the Special Rapporteur. However, what the latter decides concerning the paragraph in question rests entirely in his discretion.

A further progress report was before the Subcommittee when it met at United Nations Headquarters August 5-23 of this year. Because the Special Rapporteur was unable to attend the session, the Subcommittee decided to defer any further action on his report until its next regular session next year.



I appreciate and understand the deep concern which prompted you to bring this incident to our attention, and I hope that this sufficiently clarifies the position taken by our representative.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

John W. Hushen  
Deputy Press Secretary  
to the President

Mr. Mitch Kehetian  
Managing Editor  
The Macomb Daily  
67 Cass Avenue  
Post Office Box 707  
Mount Clements, Michigan 48043

JWH/GS/mw



NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
REFERRAL

Date: March 17, 1976  
NSC log # UNNUMBERED

MEMORANDUM FOR:

George S. Springsteen  
Executive Secretary  
Department of State

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

To: President

From: Herbert Sledd - *American Bar Assn.*

Date: Feb 27, 1976

Subject: Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide

ACTION REQUESTED:

Draft reply for:  President's Signature  
 White House Staff  
 Other

Direct reply  Furnish info copy

Dispatch  Translation

Recommendations / Comments  Appropriate Handling

Other  Information

DUE DATE:

COMMENTS:

*Lucretia D'Agostino*  
for Jeanne W. Davis  
Staff Secretary

CLASSIFICATION: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL

HU4

Good News Publication

September 3, 1976

Dear Mrs. Dennis: *Clyde H.*

The President has asked me to reply to your letter of concern about U. S. ratification of the Genocide Convention.

The Administration supports ratification of this treaty because we believe that the protection of human rights, of which the Convention is a keystone, is basic to our fundamental beliefs and is rightfully a matter of international concern. Ratification would, in our view, reaffirm our country's strong opposition to the heinous crime of genocide. Moreover, the Genocide Convention would complement other international agreements such as the United Nations Charter, the Slavery Convention (1936) and the Supplementary Convention on Slavery Convention (1967), the Supplementary Convention of Refugees (1968) and the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1975).

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee considered the Convention in 1970, 1971, 1973, and 1976. On each occasion the Committee reviewed the principal objections to the Convention, and in particular the specific concerns you raised in your letter. In each instance, the Committee recommended that the Senate give its advice and consent to ratification, but with a specific caveat that ratification be subject to certain understandings and a declaration so that there would be no question of subordinating the United States Constitution to the United Nations. A Committee Report issued on April 29, 1976, contains the text of the Resolution of Ratification along with the Committee recommended understandings and declarations.

A list of signatory States and the texts of each country's reservations were supplied to the Foreign Relations Committee in April - May of 1970 and are included in the published record of the hearings for

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SEP 4 1976

CENTRAL FILES



April 24, 29, and May 22, 1970 (pp. 28-36). Should you wish to obtain a copy of the 1970 hearings or the 1976 report, I suggest you write to the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, Washington, D. C. 20510.

Let me assure you the President appreciated your thoughtful letter and is grateful for your prayers.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Ron Nessen  
Press Secretary  
to the President

Mrs. Clyde H. Dennis  
President  
Good News Publishers  
9825 West Roosevelt Road  
Westchester, Illinois 60153

RN; NSC:STW:dl



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 27, 1976

AUG 30 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: SANDRA WISNIEWSKI  
FROM: LES JANKA *lj*  
SUBJECT: Genocide Convention

A draft response for Mrs. Dennis is attached.

Dear Mrs. Dennis:

The President has asked me to reply to your ~~recent~~ letter <sup>of</sup> ~~expressing your~~ concern about U.S. ratification of the Genocide Convention.

The Administration supports ratification of this treaty because we believe that the protection of human rights, of which the Convention is a keystone, is basic to our fundamental beliefs and is rightfully a matter of international concern. Ratification would, in our view, reaffirm our country's strong opposition to the heinous crime of genocide. Moreover, the Genocide Convention would complement other international agreements such as the United Nations Charter, the Slavery Convention ~~of~~ (1936) and the Supplementary Convention on Slavery Convention ~~of~~ (1967), the Supplementary Convention of Refugees (1968) and the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (1975).

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Let me assure you ~~The President appreciated your thoughtful letter~~  
and is grateful for  
~~as well as your prayers and I hope this information is helpful.~~

*With best wishes,*

*Sincerely*  
RN

RN: NSC: STW:

## It's Time to Pray

*It's time to pray  
to the God who watches o'er us,  
It's time to seek  
His help without delay.  
The world is dark,  
for the clouds of war still threaten.  
It's time for all America to pray!  
If we would keep  
the flag of freedom flying,  
Secure the peace  
for which we all are crying,  
It's time to pray,  
our wrong and sin confessing,  
It's time for all America to pray!  
Enemies increase around us—  
we can't drop our guard.  
Problems here at home confound us  
in our own backyard;  
Troubles unrelenting hound us,  
making living hard—  
It's time to pray! America to pray!  
It's time for all America to pray!*

—John W. Peterson

**O** LORD, with the Psalmist David, I pray, "If You keep in mind our sins then who can ever get an answer to his prayers? But You forgive! Lord, I am not proud and haughty. I don't think myself better than others. I don't pretend to 'know it all.' "

But I love this land, Lord, where early rang the sound of freedom in hearts that suffered much. I love this land where my grandparents and forefathers struggled for bread, to feed the hungry spirit as well as the needy body.

But, O God, for all Your gifts to me and to this favored land, I have not remembered You much. I have dwelt in plenty, Lord, and looked on with apathy while the sins of unbelief, self-service and greed consumed my country. I confess that more children grow up knowing about Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny than Jesus Christ. I have seen and wept little as the Book of books, which our early fathers read and revered, is replaced by literature that "must reflect the times," though filled with degrading language, mockery of parents and rebellion against God. O, Lord, forgive.

You have given us two hundred years in which to freely share Your bounty, Your salvation, Your love. For two centuries we have sought to build "one nation under

God with liberty and justice for' all.'" And through Civil War, World Wars and depression You have sustained our country. Yet, today, tragedy of a new kind grips the heart and soul of our land.

By Your Spirit, Lord, I pray quicken my heart before the shadows fall to obey Your commands, to preach the Gospel, to disciple the Christians, to call my country to repentance—to a rebirth of faith in God and Christ and to committed service for You.

Humbly I pray in the Name of Christ Jesus, my Lord.

*Muriel Dennis*



Photo: Russell Dusby

# It's Time to Pray



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GNP / Good News Publishers  
FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

July 6, 1976

Mr. Gerald Ford, President  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington, D. C.

JUL 8 1976

RN  
Dear Mr. President,

As I met with our 100 or more employees today on this first week of the beginning of our 300th year, we met in prayer for you and all in government or protective services. We shall continue to pray as Solomon did in 1 Kings 8 on the completion of the temple. Notice his exhortation to confession of sin and his plea for forgiveness. I read this to my employees. May it speak to your heart.

My purpose in writing is to ask your influence that the GENOCIDE CONVENTION be not ratified by the Senate. I am appalled that our government would even consider placing our Constitution subordinate to the Whims of the United Nations.

Though North Viet Nam has already eliminated more than 600,000 Cambodians, Vietnamese and Laotians, men, women and children, they formally accused the United States Soldiers of genocide in Viet Nam.

Is Israel the only free nation left that has any guts? Why are you so weak? If you fear God and have faith in Him, you do not need to fear man.

I suppose like all the other letters sent by your constituents, this will be answered by an innocuous letter couched in words to offend no one that says exactly nothing. Because I care about my country,

*Mrs. Clyde H. Dennis*

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Mrs. Clyde H. Dennis, President