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May 27  
1955

Statement by Hon. Gerald R. Ford, Jr.

Mr. Speaker,

Whenever the Armenian people are mentioned, I think of the many substantial contributions Americans of Armenian descent have made to our national prosperity and free way of life. And I realize that Armenians represent another important national building block along with many other nationalities upon which our country has grown powerful.

As with those Americans of Dutch, Polish, German or any other national origin -- each has united on this continent with some positive contribution to the greatness of America which helps our country stand firm as the bulwark of freedom.

Armenians have not only given us great material gains from their own cultural, business, and artistic heritage but Armenians have given us an inner spiritual strength to help us believe in freedom and all for which it stands. For what national group understands the yoke of oppression better than they? What nation has demonstrated more actively its longing for a free atmosphere in which to live?

Tomorrow, May 28, is a day upon which to stop and consider the background of these brave people. For although small in population, they are united in their courage and determination. On this day in 1918 Armenia achieved its goal of independence after centuries of rule dictated by Romans, Arabs, Turks and Russians. Their independence was shortlived because in September of 1920 they were again lashed to cruel oppression, this time by Russian dictatorship. But there is much more to any nation than meets the eye. Armenia has proved this with its great spirit and dedication which can never be chained in subjugation. So, although

~~that country~~



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their country may not be physically free, the spirit of this small nation can never be anything but free, and this spirit will permeate to many corners of our country as well as of the entire world.



May 24, 1955

Mr. Sigmund Jamierowski  
908 Michigan National Bank Building  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Thought you might like to see my extension of remarks for  
Polish Constitution Day. Therefore, I am enclosing a copy.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Gerald R. Ford, Jr. M.C.

