

THE U.N.'S POSITION ON THE ARMENIAN CASE

Point 1: U.N REJECTS 1985 WHITAKER SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT DEFINING ARMENIAN CASE AS GENOCIDE

Point 2: IN 2000, THE U.N. SPOKESPERSON CONFIRMED THAT THE U.N. HAS NOT “APPROVED OR ENDORSED” [THE] REPORT LABELING THE ARMENIAN EXPERIENCE AS GENOCIDE.”

IN 2007, HE REPEATED: “AS FOR ARMENIA, IN ANY CASE, THE U.N. HASN’T EXPRESSED ANY POSITION ON INCIDENTS THAT TOOK PLACE LONG BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS WAS ESTABLISHED.”

The U.N. Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities did not “accept” the 1985 Subcommittee Whitaker Report that attempted to define the Armenian case as genocide. Instead, it considered whether even to “receive” the report and decided not to. In the end, it decided to “take note” of the study, which was a polite rejection.

On October 5, 2000, when the Armenian American lobby attempted to mislead the United States Congress to believing that the UN had accepted the Armenian case as genocide, U.N. Spokesman Farhan Haq, announced unequivocally, “The United Nations has not approved or endorsed a report labeling the Armenian experience as Genocide.”

On April 9, 2007, when the Armenian American lobby attempted again to mislead the United States Congress, the U.N Spokesman reiterated, “As for Armenia, in any case, the UN hasn’t expressed any position on incidents that took place long before the United Nations was established.”

The history of the 1985 Whitaker Report is instructive. The same U.N. Subcommission had proposed a similar report in 1978 that included a reference to the Armenian case as genocide. This reference caused sufficient discord among the members of the Subcommission that the report was not presented until the reference was removed. (CN.4/Sub.2/SR.222 September 15, 1978).

Members of the Subcommission who sought to expand the definition of genocide, then sought out another rapporteur who would carry the Armenian position through another report. In 1983 they chose Benjamin Whitaker, Director of the London-based “Minority Rights Group”. Mr. Whitaker was the author of a booklet entitled, “The Armenians,” in which he argued the Armenian version of events to the exclusion of all other views. The book’s bibliography was devoid of contra-genocide sources. In the August 22, 1985 edition of “The Armenian Reporter” newspaper, it was approvingly admitted that Mr. Whitaker, “clearly sided with the Armenians.” Hence, the infamous Whitaker Report.

UNITED NATIONS RESPONDS TO ARMENIAN CLAIMS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - A House resolution that recognizes as genocide the killings of Armenians in Turkey between 1915 and 1923 misstated the United Nations' position on the matter, according to a U.N. spokesman.

The resolution said that in 1986 the U.N. Commission on Human Rights adopted a report labeling the killings a genocide. But U.N. spokesman Farhan Haq said the commission voted only to take notice of the report, not to approve it or endorse its findings.

``There is no indication that the U.N. has taken an official position on this,'' Haq said.

Armenians say 1.5 million of their people were slaughtered as part of the Ottoman Empire's campaign to force them out of eastern Turkey between 1915 and 1923. The Turkish government says the death count is inflated and the people were killed as the Ottoman Empire tried to quell civil unrest. The Ottoman Empire became Turkey in 1923.

The House resolution, which is nonbinding, passed the International Relations Committee on Tuesday despite warnings it could seriously damage U.S. relations with Turkey, a key military ally.

A spokeswoman for California GOP Rep. George Radanovich, the resolution's main sponsor, said the language was being looked at and would be fixed if needed.

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