



TURKISH INDUSTRIALISTS' AND BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
WASHINGTON OFFICE

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TUSIAD CALLS UPON THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO URGE CONGRESS TO REACH A DECISION BASED ON HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister of Turkey, H.E. Bulent Ecevit, TUSIAD Chairman Erkut Yucaoglu voiced the concerns and objections of TUSIAD towards House Resolution 596, the "Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution". H. Res. 596 was approved, by a vote of 24-11, in the House International Relations Committee on October 3, 2000, and has been placed on the House Calendar for discussion and voting.

In his letter pertaining to the House Resolution in question, Mr. Yucaoglu, called upon the Prime Minister to invite the U.S. Congress to act in accordance with the principles of transparency and fairness when voting on the legislation.

Mr. Yucaoglu suggested that, in light of recent developments concerning H. Res. 596, it would be best if the Prime Minister, personally, addressed the following crucial elements, as outlined below:

On a global scale, the United States exemplifies democracy and freedom of information. As such, the U.S. inevitably serves as a model for other nations. Within this framework, the U.S. maintains a responsibility to educate the American people with reliable and accurate information. Indisputably, researching, gathering, and analyzing information from all available sources including opposing views and arguments is a fundamental aspect of any democratic and open society.

The government of the Republic of Turkey has made it clear that it is ready to cooperate and explore the archives of involved countries including Turkey, and utilize the relevant and applicable data acquired by expert historians to equip decision-makers with the necessary tools to form an informed position. The Turkish archives have remained open for several years. Furthermore, the Turkish government has proposed that an international delegation of expert historians freely research the Turkish archives, and disclose their results to American decision-makers and the people.

The conclusions of the team of expert historians will no doubt shed light on the real occurrences and events during the given time period. Their research will naturally evolve into scientific research, and be recorded as a historic study. An action lacking evidence and information gathered by the historians would signal to double standards on the part of the U.S. legislators. Freedom of expression and freedom of information establishes the basic foundation for democracy in the U.S. Exercising judgment over the assertions made in the aforementioned resolution before reaching a fair conclusion based on extensive research and analyses would be contradicting the very elements of American democracy.