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August 7, 1987

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H 7323

Mr. MOODY. Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of respect for the authors of this resolution and for its supporters. RICK LEHMAN is a very good friend of mine and DAVE BONIOR and all of the others who support it are top Members of this House, and I am very fond of them and I agree with them about 98 percent of the time. I have a great deal of respect for the Armenian people. I lived and worked for 5 years in that region of the world, not in Turkey, but in the countries surrounding Turkey, and I had Armenians work with me, and they are wonderful people and I love them.

And I am a strong human rights advocate. I do not buy the argument we need this just for military reasons.

But from my personal experience of 5 years in that region of the world, and from visiting Turkey, even though I once was a coauthor of this resolution, I am now opposed to it, as painful as it is.

It puts this Congress, it puts the stamp of this Congress on a particular interpretation of history which is highly disputed. Despite the previous comments, this is a highly disputed interpretation of history.

There were massacres; yes. There was unspeakable killing and atrocities; yes. But was it genocide?

Genocide is the most dastardly

charge one can level against anyone because it implies a systematic, premeditated murder of a whole group of people. That is not what was happening in Turkey. As bad as what was happening is, it was not genocide.

What was the context? The context was a civil war within a world war. The Armenian minority in the Anatolian section of Turkey rose up in this period of chaos. There was no effective government at all, much less a context to carry out premeditated murder. They rose up, declared independence, and they were being armed by the Russian-Armenian factions. There was fighting going on behind the lines of the Turkish troops protecting Turkey against an invasion by the Soviet Union, and in that context they attempted to deport the Armenian population in that area, very much the way we attempted to deport the Japanese-Americans from our country.

In that context there was no effective control. Armenians were killing one another, villages were killing one another and 4 to 5 million civilians, that is non-Armenian Turkish citizens, were killed. There was chaos, there was killing all around, there was starvation. People were moved without adequate provisions for health care or food. It was wintertime and people died of exposure. No one doubts the

suffering, and almost no one has suffered more than the Armenians.

But the term genocide is just far too strong to apply. Sixty eminent scholars in America, not revisionist historians, as someone put it, but 60 eminent scholars from Chicago, IL, from Wisconsin, from California, have said that this is not genocide, as bad as it was.

The archives of the relevant countries have not been opened, as the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR] said. They are still closed, and the Balkan countries have not opened their archives to settle this matter.

The problem is putting our stamp of approval will validate the rationale used by Armenian terrorists to assassinate, in cold blood, Turkish diplomats around the world. It will deeply offend the people of Turkey who have had a long history of, whatever problems one may have with them, protecting minorities. In fact, Turkey was the only country in the region who began to take in Jews in World War II during the Holocaust. When every other country in the world, including the United States, would not accept them, they were a sanctuary for Jewish citizens. Turkey took them, and they have a long and enviable record of protection of minorities, and we are defaming this country with this resolution.

