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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY: France

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT: Armenian Activities

INFO. [REDACTED]

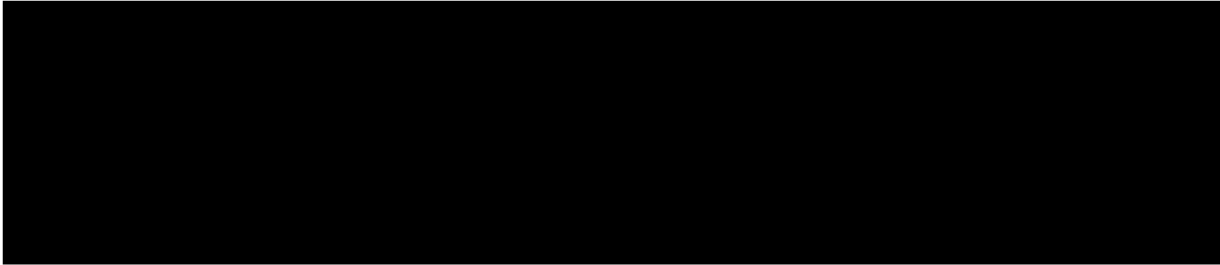
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DIST. 25 February 1947

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SUPPLEMENT



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1. Soviet officials in Paris are taking new steps to persuade 50,000 Turkish Armenians in France either to enter the USSR or to accept Soviet control abroad, according to source.

2. Sympathies of these Armenians are said to lean toward the USSR which promises eventually to create a greater unified Armenia by attaching to Soviet Armenia the Armenian territories still under Turkish sovereignty.

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3. Already, [REDACTED] 10,000 Armenians have departed from Iran for Soviet Armenia; 17,000 from Syria; and 20,000 from Turkey; but only about 150 have left France. Soviet agents say, however, that they are preparing for the departure of 5,000 Armenians in the spring.

4. The First Secretary of the Soviet Embassy, A. Enaekian [REDACTED] Comment: Listed in the current official diplomatic list as A. Inaekian, Third Secretary, 8 rue de Prony) is assigned to deal especially with Armenian affairs. He is aided in his propaganda efforts by the Armenian National Front (14 place de la Madeleine, Paris) whose chief is Marmarian (6 rue Victor Daix, Neuilly-sur-Seine). The Front publishes a daily newspaper in 66 rue Mouffetard, Paris 5. Printed in Armenian, it is called Jochevourt (The People). B. Elekian, a friend of Marmarian, is the editor-in-chief, and follows an editorial policy in support of the Soviets.

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5. The combined activities of the Russians and the Armenians, [REDACTED] have persuaded 8 or 9,000 Turkish Armenians living in Paris to exchange their refuge papers for Soviet passports.

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)

DDA Memo 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG 177/1783 Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000300710006-8

Date: 27 March 1978 By: DAY

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6. This pro-Soviet movement, [redacted] has not affected the colony of Russian Armenians, numbering hardly more than 2,000 persons in France. This group is made up almost exclusively of rich traders and intellectuals. They are the only ones, strictly speaking, who comprise the Armenian political emigre group. [redacted]

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7. Those Armenians who do not wish to return to Soviet rule look to the Office of Armenian Refugees in 11 rue de Grenelle, Paris 7, a member of the League of Nations.

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8. Struggle against Soviet control is carried on also by the Dachnaks; an organization founded 56 years ago to resist the Turks in Armenia. The Dachnaks retain clandestine relations with followers in Soviet Armenia. The political program of the Dachnaks is Socialist, but their activity is aimed against the Communists. They ask for an autonomous Armenia within the Russian Federal State. In Paris they publish the daily newspaper, Haratch (Epoch), owned and edited by Missakian.

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9. With reference to this conflict between Armenian groups in France, [redacted] two officers of the provisional central committee of the General Armenian Union, President Karlamachian and Secretary Gibdony, recently visited Marseille where they attempted to merge the Marseille section of the Union with the Armenian National Front. There they encountered hostility. Menatzaganian, a leading member of the local Central Committee, agreed to hold a meeting to settle the question, but opposed the merger on the grounds that it would subordinate the UGA to Soviet jurisdiction within the Armenian National Front.

10. Menatzaganian carried the support of most members of the UGA in a proposal to establish himself as president of an autonomous section of UGA, no longer recognizing the authority of the Central Committee of the UGA in Paris. Menatzaganian was advised by the local president, Attarian, who favors the merger, that he would be excluded from the UGA for five years. His adversaries are resolved to create a new section of the UGA to be placed under the authority of the Central Committee.

11. The Armenian Socialist Party, Dachnak-Tzoutioun, anxious to prevent the absorption of the UGA by the Armenian National Front, has announced that it intends to support Menatzaganian. The large Armenian colony in Marseille, [redacted] is distressed over this situation which threatens to divide the General Armenian Union into two hostile blocs. They blame the trouble on the political meddling of the Armenian National Front.

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