

Boopert BYMO

the recipient of ATAA's
gold medal of honor

Assembly of Turkish American Associations
11th Annual Convention
Washington, D.C.
May 10-14, 1990

ATAA

**ASSEMBLY OF
TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS**

**READY FOR
ANOTHER DECADE**

What is ATAA?

The Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) was founded in 1979 as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization with the goal of promoting a more positive image of Turks and Turkey in the United States through cultural and educational activities. Currently, ATAA unites the Turkish-American community and friends of Turks in 49 component associations across the United States and Canada to disseminate information on the history, culture, customs and traditions of the Turkish people.

The Assembly is governed by a Board of Directors and a Board of Trustees, who oversee the financial management of the organization. Ultimate authority rests with the Assembly of Delegates which convenes once a year at the annual convention.

Through community schools, children of Turkish-Americans are educated in the Turkish language, history and traditions. ATAA is actively promoting packets of information on Turkey to be included in school curricula. Through the local organizations teachers of social studies are receiving workshops on how to teach about Turkish culture. Textbook review committees are forming to remove passages in books which are inaccurate or distort history and include sections where little or nothing is written. The goal is to have our children develop a deep love and knowledge of their Turkish heritage, and have them attend schools where they learn about Turkey's accomplishments.

ATAA's major publication is a quarterly journal *ATA-USA* which brings members up-to-date on the activities of the Assembly, the associations, and presents items of historical, cultural and social interest to the community. At various times ATAA publishes special books, articles and reports on issues that are confronting Turkish-Americans in their daily activities. The newest publication of ATAA is the newspaper, "The Turkish Times," which is available not only to members but to the general public.

The National Media Watch Committee monitors the top 25 markets for accuracy in their coverage of Turkish and Turkish-American issues, and responds when necessary.

In 1989, ATAA has begun serving the business community both in Turkey and the United States by acting as a liaison and center for businessmen to develop contacts and obtain information.

Membership in ATAA is automatically conferred on an individual when he or she becomes a member of one of the component associations spread across the United States. The Assembly also accepts applications from individuals at-large.

The President-elect and Board of Directors are elected for two-year terms while members of the Board of Trustees are elected for four-year terms.

In its central office, ATAA has a full-time staff and employs other professionals on an "as-needed basis." It also utilizes the services of volunteer workers throughout the United States and Canada.

ATAA is ideally situated in Washington, D.C., where national leaders and media offices are located.

ATAA

1522 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 483-9090

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Harun Kazaz Executive Director

Component Associations of the Assembly

American Association of Crimean Turks, Inc.
American Turkish Association of Houston
American Turkish Association of North Carolina
American Turkish Association of Southern California
American Turkish Association of Washington, D.C.
American Turkish Islamic and Cultural Center, Inc.
Anadolu Club
Azerbaijan Society of America
Balkan Turks of America
Florida Turkish American Association
Florida Turkish American Association Women's Club
Hilal Turkish American Islamic Cultural Society
Karacay Turks Mosque and Cultural Association
Maryland American Turkish Association
Minnesota Turkish American Association
New England Turkish American Cultural Society, Inc.
Pittsburgh Turkish American Association
Society of Turkish Architects Engineers and Scientists
Turkestanian American Association
Turkish American Association of California
Turkish American Association of Central Ohio
Turkish American Association of Greater Kansas City
Turkish American Association of Louisiana
Turkish American Association of Milwaukee
Turkish American Association of Phoenix
Turkish American Cultural Alliance
Turkish American Cultural Association of Alabama
Turkish American Cultural Association of Florida, Inc.
Turkish American Cultural Association of Georgia
Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan
Turkish American Cultural Association of Seattle
Turkish American Cultural Society of Colorado
Turkish American Society of Northeastern Ohio
Turkish American Federation of Northern Texas
Turkish American Friendship Association of Hawaii
Turkish American Friendship Club of St. Louis
Turkish American Friendship Society of the United States
Turkish American Neuropsychiatric Association
Turkish American Physicians Association, Inc.
Turkish Children's Foster Care
Turkish Cultural Alliance
Turkish Culture and Folklore Society of Canada
Turkish Cypriot Aid Society
Turkish Mosque and Culture Center
Turkish Society of Rochester
Turkish Women's League of America
Türkocağı Association
United Turkish Americans
West Texas Turkish American Association

ATAA President's Message to The Eleventh Annual Convention

May 10, 1990
Washington Hilton Hotel
Washington, D.C.

Dear Friends,

As you gather here for our Eleventh Annual Convention, I would like to welcome all of you to our very exciting and full four days of activities. Many of you we have seen at each and every ATAA annual meeting. However, this year we are delighted to see so many who are here for the first time, and I am sure many of you took me up on my challenge to bring someone new with you this year. Again, I would like to urge all of you to look for someone you can bring next year.

As my term in office as President draws to a close, I would like to thank all of those hardworking and dedicated people who have made it possible for me to work toward ATAA's growth and increased ability to meet the challenges before us. With the successful launching of our voice "The Turkish Times," we are now able to speak to government and business leaders in substantially more effective ways, and we are being heard.

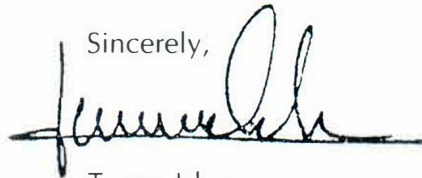
Over 7,500 of you took up our hotline, a number far beyond anyone's expectations, and demonstrated the depth of your personal involvement and commitment to the cause of promoting our proud Turkish heritage. This generated over 150,000 telegrams which were sent to President Bush, the U.S. Senate, Secretary of State and other top decision makers on this issue. It is a clear indication that our future outlook is strong and clearly focused. ATAA is on a solid foundation and on its way up.

As I look back over the past several years, I have worked to build up the professional staff of ATAA, and would like to thank them for their long hours of exceptional service. I would urge all of you, both Turkish-Americans and friends of Turks, to support them and work with them and with our new president as a team. To paraphrase the late President Kennedy, "Ask not what the Assembly can do for you, but what you can do for the Assembly."

We look forward to increased cooperation and interaction with our sister organizations to improve the relations between our new and old countries.

Finally, my congratulations go out to our professional staff and all the volunteers who worked together so well in defeating the Armenian resolution. It really showed that when we work together we can achieve our aims. As our great leader Ataturk said, "Birlikten kuvvet doğar." (In unity there is strength).

Sincerely,



Tunca Iskir
President

**OTHER
MESSAGES
TO THE
ATAA
11th CONVENTION**



The President

Ankara.

Assembly of Turkish-American
Associations
Washington, DC

It gives me great pleasure to send my warmest greetings to the members of the Assembly of Turkish-American Associations, who are gathered for their 11th Annual Convention.

Through their mutual devotion to democratic ideals, western defense and the principle of a thriving free market economy, the relations between Turkey and the United States have grown ever stronger in recent years. I am confident that in this rapidly changing world our close cooperation will continue to develop, contributing not only to the interests of our respective countries but also to international peace and stability.

I commend ATAA which has been working for more than a decade now to enhance the multi-faceted partnership between the two friendly and allied countries by contributing to better understanding between the Turkish and American nations. I trust that in the light of its successful past experience, ATAA will continue to play this positive and constructive role in the future to the benefit of the two countries.

I take this opportunity to express to you all my best wishes for your continued success and happiness.


Turgut ÖZAL.

Primo Minister

Ankara. 10.4.1990

Mr. Tunca Iskir
Assembly of Turkish-American
Associations,
2010, Massachusetts Avenue,
N.W. Washington D.C.
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Iskir,

It is a great pleasure for me to express my warmest greetings and congratulations to my fellow citizens and Turkish-Americans on the occasion of the 11th Annual Convention of the Assembly of Turkish-American Associations.

Turkey and the United States have for the last 40 years maintained a successful cooperation based on the bonds of friendship and alliance existing between them. In addition to the strategic interests we both share, our dedication to the principles of democracy, freedom, human rights and free enterprise constitutes a strong foundation on which to further improve and diversify our existing exemplary relationship. Your efforts have greatly contributed to the promotion of these friendly relations, and I am confident that this will continue in the future.

Taking this opportunity, I wish you, my best wishes for happiness and success.



Yıldırım AKBULUT

Assembly of Turkish American Associations
Washington, D.C.

As you gather here for the eleventh annual convention of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations, I want to welcome all of you to the nation's capital and congratulate you for your efforts to promote a strong U.S.-Turkish relationship.

The remarkable changes we have witnessed in Eastern Europe during the past year are a tribute to the NATO Alliance. The United States and Turkey can look with pride on their part in bringing about these developments. Our cooperation will continue to play a role in helping to ensure that democracy takes root and flourishes.

Over the years a special friendship has evolved between the United States and Turkey. The United States remains committed to its partnership with Turkey and to preserving Turkey's territorial integrity. We look forward to broadening and deepening our partnership through expanded economic, cultural, and educational ties.

Your organization is an important link in the efforts of our two countries to build even closer ties. I extend my best wishes for an enjoyable and successful annual convention.

James A. Baker, III
Secretary of State
(United States of America)

Assembly of Turkish American Associations
Washington, DC

It is a pleasure for me to extend my greetings and best wishes to all Turkish Americans on the occasion of the 11th Annual Convention of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations.

We have reached a stage where it has become important to diversify our relations with the United States, especially in the economic and social spheres, by extending them beyond the security cooperation that has proved to be useful not only to our respective countries but to world peace for the past forty years. I believe that a variety of opportunities can be explored through direct and joint investment, aiming not only at the Turkish domestic market but also that of the third countries in the region.

Your valuable efforts have greatly contributed to the strengthening and diversification of our multifaceted partnership with the United States. These efforts have been crucial in countering organized attempts to tarnish the Turkish heritage. I very much appreciate and commend these important contributions, which I hope you will continue to make in the future, to ATAA's expanding activities.

I would like to express my best wishes for continued success in your endeavors.

Prof. Dr. Ali Bozer
Minister of Foreign Affairs
(Republic of Turkey)

TURKISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 10, 1990

Dear Turkish Americans and
Distinguished Members of the
Assembly of Turkish American Associations,

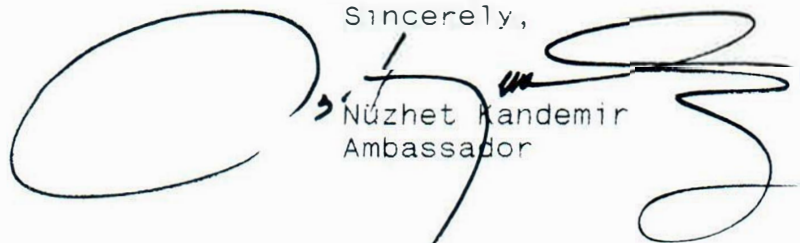
On the occasion of the 11th Annual Convention of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations, it is indeed an honor and privilege for me to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for your successful activities.

I have been deeply touched by the warmth and support I have received from the Turkish-American community since assuming my duties as the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in this great country nearly a year ago. It is always gratifying for me to see the Turkish Americans as a civic-minded community with praiseworthy unity and cohesion among its members, loyal to the interests of the United States, but at the same time proud of the great heritage of the land of their forebears. In this context, I would like to pay a special tribute to the important role ATAA has been playing in promoting a mutual understanding between the Turkish and American nations, furthering the multi-faceted relations between Turkey and the United States, and countering any attempt by other ethnic groups to defame the rich Turkish heritage, a vital ingredient in America's melting pot.

Turkey's political-security relationship with the United States is certainly crucial, but so are the strengthening economic and cultural ties. I am confident that in the years to come ATAA's past achievements will set a good example for meeting the challenges before us and for the continuing contributions of the Turkish-American community to the exemplary relations existing between two friendly and allied countries sharing the ideals of freedom, independence, democracy and a free-market economy.

With these thoughts in mind, I congratulate and thank each one of you for your valuable efforts and wish you every success for your annual convention and future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Nuzhet Kandemir
Ambassador

**STRENGTH OF
ATAA
COMES
FROM THE
STRENGTH OF
INDIVIDUALS**

ATAA 1990 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Assembly's Gold Medal of Honor Award

SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

On certain occasions, the Assembly bestows its highest honor on those individuals who have made an extraordinary contribution to ATAA and the Turkish-American community. This year the community overwhelmingly wanted to have Senator Robert C. Byrd receive this award as a small token of our appreciation. His courage and valor in defending us on the floor of the U.S. Senate will never be forgotten. Thank you Senator Byrd!

Turkish-American of the Year Award

ARİF MARDİN

This award is given each year to the person of Turkish descent who has come to this country or was born here and has achieved an outstanding degree of success in his field, and is a role model for all. This certainly is true of this year's recipient Arif Mardin. From his recent Grammy Award for "Wind Beneath My Wings" to the numerous awards and acclamations he has received as one of the top musicians in this country, Arif Mardin makes all Turkish-American hearts swell with pride.

Distinguished Service Award Recipients

DAN BURTON (R-IN) JIM MOODY (D-WI) İLNUR CEVİK

Each year the Assembly bestows its Distinguished Service Award to the person or persons who have given extraordinary service to the Turkish-American community.

This year two Congressmen have received this award for their years of standing up against the defamation and claims put forth on the floor of the House. They have worked long hours to promote strong U.S.-Turkish relations.

İlnur Çevik and the staff of the "Turkish Daily News," made the dream of "The Turkish Times" a reality. With their most valuable assistance, hard work and dedication, we are able to speak with a new voice to our community, Congress and government leaders, as well as the rest of the world. Thank you İlnur Cevik and your staff for getting "The Turkish Times" off the ground and for your continuing support.

The Turkish-American community and friends of Turks thank all of you.

Meritorious Service Award Recipient

KÂMURAN GÜRÜN

This award is presented to people who have made a significant contribution to work of the Assembly.

Kâmuran Gürün spend countless hours in the formative years of ATAA and his groundwork has helped to set a strong foundation for the Assembly. Thank you Kâmuran Gürün.

Assembly's Gold Medal of Honor Award

Each year the Assembly has honored these individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to ATAA and to the Turkish American community. However a special award was created to honor an individual whose accomplishments had a nationwide impact on all Americans.

HON. ROBERT BYRD	1990
H. E. SÜKRÜ ELEKDAĞ	1989
AYLA ELEKDAĞ	1989
DR. ÜLKÜ ÜLGÜR	1989
DR. ESİN ATIL	1987

Turkish-American of the Year Award Recipients

This exclusive award is presented each year to a person of Turkish descent who has come to this country or was born here and has achieved an outstanding degree of success in his field to the point that it has brought honor to our Turkish-American community. Also, this person has to have made an outstanding contribution toward the pursuit of our Assembly goals. They are a role model for all of us to follow.

ARİF MARDİN	1990
NURİ SABUNCU	1988
EROL ONARAN	1987
AYHAN HAKİMOĞLU	1985
AHMED KAFADAR	1984

The Turk of the Year Award

ATAA gives this special award to a person of Turkish descent who has gained worldwide recognition and esteem for his or her achievements.

NAİM SÜLEYMANOĞLU	1989
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Assembly's Silver Medal of Honor Award

The Assembly's award for those individuals have made extraordinary contributions to ATAA and the Turkish-American community.

MURAT SUNGAR 1989

Distinguished Service Award Recipients

Each year the Assembly bestows its Distinguished Service Award on the person or persons who have given extraordinary service to the Turkish-American community.

İLNUUR ÇEVİK &
Turkish Daily News 1990
HON. DAN BURTON 1990
HON. JIM MOODY 1990
ALP KARAHASAN, M.D., PH.D. 1988
BONNIE JOY KASLAN &
BEKİR ONURSAL 1987
LEON PICON 1986
TARHAN DANIŞMAN 1985
RALPH ROPP 1984

Assembly's Bronze Medal of Honor Award

This Award given by the Assembly to the scholars, artist, writers, journalist and others who have contributed substantially to Turkish and Turkish-American history, art, culture, literature and social life through work in their field.

DR. ESİN ATIL 1989
DR. AVIGDOR LEVY 1989
DR. BERNARD LEWIS 1989
DR. HEATH LOWRY 1989
DR. JUSTIN McCARTHY 1989
DR. PIERRE OBERLING 1989
DR. STADFORD SHAW 1989

Meritorious Service Award Recipients

This award is presented to people who have made a significant contribution to work of the Assembly.

REMZİ AÇAN
DR. HASAN AKDEMİR
DİNÇER AKYALI
HASAN ALİ
ADİL ARABOĞLU
TAŞKIN ATIL
AYŞEN BAŞARAN
SUAT BAŞARAN
DR. BÜLENT BAŞOL
TURHAN BEYGO
EKREM BULGUR
GÜNDOĞAN ÇAĞAL
YURDAKUL GÖKER
DR. KEMAL GÖKNAR
KAMURAN GÜRÜN

DR. ENGİN İNEL HOLMSTROM
LAUREL HOUSE
DR. ALP KARAHASAN
ATTILA KASLAN
BONNIE JOY KASLAN
HARUN KAZAZ
LEYLA KAZAZ
DR. ALTAN KODANAZ
DR. AYTEKİN KODANAZ
SEBAT KÜÇÜKÇETİN
DR. TUNCER KUZAY
BARBARA LARSON
DR. ALBERT NAHUM
SENGUN NURİ
DR. MUSTAFA ÖNAL

VERA ORAL
YALCIN ORAL
DR. GÜLTEKİN OVACIK
ANSELINE ÖZBERKMEN
DIAN PEKİN
DR. LEON PICON
ARMAĞAN SANVER
ALİ FERDA SEVİN
YAVUZ SOMEN
ÖZCAN TUNCEL
DR. EROL ÜÇER
JOAN WEEKS
HIFSIYE ZİNCİR

Endowment Fund Contributors of Distinction

To insure the economic well-being of the Assembly in the years ahead an endowment fund was established for the Assembly in 1986. Ambassador Club members have contributed over \$5,000.00 to the fund. For a contribution of between \$2,500.00 and \$4,999.00, a person or company becomes a member of the President's Club.

Ambassador's Club

Remzi Ađan	'86	Alp Karahasan, M.D., Ph.D.	'86
Yıldırım Aktürk	'88	Victor Kent, M.D.	'86
Sedat Aloglu	'88	Asım Kocabıyık	'88
Cem Boyner	'88	Ali Koçman	'88
Ali Coşkun	'88	Fuat Miras	'88
Tarhan Danışman	'86	Albert Nahum, M.D.	'86
Lenny Epperson	'86	Gültekin Ovacık, M.D.	'86
Selim Edez	'88	Mustafa Önal, M.D.	'86
Nejat Erem, M.D.	'89	Yusuf Özer	'88
Ender Erenoglu	'86	Nuri Sabuncu	'86
Ahmet Ertegun	'86	Osman Soyer	'86
Tunca Iskir	'86	Halis Toprak	'88
İbrahim Günyüzü	'86	Nevzat Türkmen, M.D.	'86
Robert Gray	'86	Erol Üçer, M.D.	'86
Naşide Gwin	'88	Aytekin Ülgen, M.D.	'86
Ahmed Kafadar	'86	Ülkü Ülgür, M.D.	'86
Jak Kamhi	'88		

President's Club

Süleyman Sarpel, M.D.	'88	Türkiye Ziraat Bankası	'90
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**IT ALL
STARTED IN 1979**

History of ATAA

On August 19, 1977, the President of the Maryland American Turkish Association (MATA), Dr. Ülkü Ülgür, in his letter to the membership states, "... It is no news that Turkey and Turkish-Americans in this country are beset by many problems and recently have been subjected to unfair treatment and discrimination by some other ethnic groups and their political representatives. Your new Board of Directors believe that we clearly need to intensify our efforts for better and more effective representation of our views, especially in the light of growing criticism and hostility from many quarters." Another part of the same letter states that, "... we have reached a tentative agreement with the new president of ATA D.C., Mr Yavuz Somen, to collaborate and work together in these crucial and vital areas."

Similar letters and notes in the American Turkish Association of Washington, D.C. (ATA D.C.) files reflect the concern of this community to the problems faced by Turkish-Americans in this country.

On June 29, 1978, MATA President, Dr. Ülgür, in his letter to ATA D.C. President Yavuz Somen states, "In our recent Board of Directors' meeting we have discussed the possibility of bringing our associations together by affiliating them in some official form. We, as members of the Board of Directors of the Maryland American Turkish Association, believe that such an affiliation will be a giant step forward for better representation of the Turkish community in the Mid-Eastern United States. Therefore, we have unanimously elected three of our distinguished members to form an ad-hoc committee and have instructed them to work jointly with a similar committee so that a solution can be found to realize the goal of uniting these two respected organizations."

The ad hoc committees of ATA D.C. and MATA met on November 5, 1978. ATA D.C. was represented by President Yavuz Somen, Suat Basaran, and Loren Myers while MATA was represented by President Ülkü Ülgür, Cenap Kıratlı, and the late Alp Karahasan.

By 1979, there was a crying need to address the attacks, the distortions of history, and the discrimination the Turkish-American community was facing every day in their jobs, at schools their children attended, and in their daily lives. Isolated local, Turkish American organizations were unable to cope with the massive work that needed to be done nationwide.

Upon his arrival in Washington to take up the post of Ambassador from Turkey, Dr. Şükrü Elekdağ was met by members of both ATA D.C. and MATA at a special reception held at the Navy Officers Club in Bethesda, Md. on September 23, 1979. He inspired both communities with his dynamic approach to U.S.-Turkish relations. Now the two communities were no longer talking merely about regional cooperation. Visions of a national umbrella organization were forming.

In the aftermath of threats of yet another arms embargo passing through Congress with virtually no Turkish-American voice raised in opposition, a series of meetings were held in the Washington, D.C. area. A steering committee was formed in November 1979, headed by ATA D.C. President Yavuz Somen with the late Yurdakul Göker and Taskin Atıl and by MATA President, the late Dr. Alp Karahasan, with Dr. Ülkü Ülgür, Cenap Kıratlı and Sengün Nuri. The advisor associates were Erol Gurun, Aydın Caginalp, Hasan Akdemir, Tuncer Kuzay, and Ozcan Tuncel. Out of their meetings came an

agreement to establish the nationwide **Assembly of Turkish American Associations**.

Washington, D.C. was chosen to be the headquarters of the new organization to utilize the vast opportunities for promoting U.S. Turkish relations among policy makers. A Secretariat for the Assembly was established to coordinate the activities, publish a nationwide bulletin and generally be the central source of information on Turks and Turkey. For this purpose office space was provided by Adil Araboğlu, a Washington business leader, and the Assembly was in business.

Clearly the tasks that lay ahead were enormous and the resources limited. The first ball was a fundraising activity sponsored by ATA D.C. and MATA, and held on December 29, 1979 at the Turkish Embassy. One hundred and forty-six people managed to raise \$17,470 for the Assembly. The first ATA-USA was published in February, 1980 and news about Turks and Turkey premiered nationwide.

With coordinating committee members Yavuz Somen, Ekrem Bulgur, and Yurdakul Göker from ATA, and the late Alp Karahasan, Ülkü Ülgür, and Cenap Kıratlı from MATA, plans for convening the general assembly on May 17-18, 1980 in the nation's capital pressed forward with great speed. More than 120 people representing 24 organizations and 5 student associations gathered at the Embassy Row Hotel during this two-day conference and brought plans on the drawing board into reality. The delegates elected the Coordinating Committee members to a special Steering Committee. Their task was to draw up a constitution and bylaws for the Assembly to be presented to the delegates at the next annual convention.

Founded to deal with issues confronting the community, the Assembly was not to be given time to grow and mature slowly, but rather would have to come on as an adult and face Armenians crying "genocide," and trying to include their grievances in a national museum dedicated to the memory of six million Jews murdered by the Nazis during World War II. The "Midnight Express" image of Turks and Turkey was constantly being shown with even President Carter giving it free advertising. Now there was an organization that was writing letters with the weight of the whole Turkish-American community behind it. Publications were giving the members information about the issues to enable them to set the record straight when they encountered distortions and attacks on their Turkish heritage.

The second general meeting of the Assembly was held on November 15th and 16th, 1980 at which time the bylaws were adopted, officers were elected and Articles of Incorporation were filed. During this time 18 Turkish American Associations ratified the bylaws and became official members of the Assembly. Dr. Ülkü Ülgür became the first President assisted by Yavuz Somen, Vice President; Ali Ferda Sevin, Secretary; and Sengün Nuri, Treasurer.

A gala New Year's Eve Fundraising Ball held at the Turkish Embassy got the Assembly off to a very good start in 1981, raising over \$24,000. Now the Turkish voice was being heard in new areas of the United States with letters protesting unjust or one-sided views of Turkey, letters congratulating elected officials and information in response to inquiries about Turkey sent out regularly.

To permit wider participation in the general meeting, it was decided to hold the third convention April 11-12, 1981 in New York. At the opening session, held at the Sheraton Centre

Hotel, Armenians demonstrated and marched outside on 7th Avenue. However, delegates and members attentively listened to presentations by Representative Stephen Solarz (D-NY) and Representative Fred Richmond (D-NY) as well as prominent Turkish diplomats. Ambassador Elekdag emphasized the fraternity of Turkish-Americans in his speech.

May 19, 1981, marked the launching of year-long celebrations for the centennial of Atatürk's birth. Several American cities, including New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Pittsburgh issued proclamations honoring Atatürk, thus raising public awareness of the immense contributions of our great leader.

This year also saw more Turks taking part in T.V. debates, sending letters to their congressmen and initiating letter campaigns on issues that concern them. One of the main issues was the Armenian attempts to have their exhibit included in the Holocaust Museum, which was intended to commemorate the Nazi destruction of over six million Jews. Dr. Leon Picon, a long-time friend and hard working volunteer for ATAA was at the forefront of a campaign to present the highly positive picture of Turkish-Jewish relations and explain the very erroneous and detrimental nature of the Armenian attempts to include their materials in the museum.

By the end of 1981, 27 regional and national Turkish-American associations and 6 student organizations had joined the Assembly. The collaboration and increased communication among the component associations of the Assembly had markedly improved the representation of the Turkish-American community in the U.S.

1982 started off on a very sad note when Armenian terrorism took a deadly turn on January 28th with the assassination of the Turkish Consul General of Los Angeles, Kemal Arıkan. Our community knew now that the survival of our ideals, our liberties and even our lives were in jeopardy. ATAA published an ad in the Washington Post and Los Angeles Times to publicize the vicious and vindictive nature of Armenian terrorists to a largely unaware American public.

Dr. Ülgür made a trip to Turkey to meet with government officials and members of the business community, especially those associated with TÜSIAD. He was received by the Prime Minister and other officials concerned with U.S. Turkish relations and was encouraged by their pleasure at ATAA efforts to promote better relations between the two countries.

All aboard the Turkish Express joined their compatriots in Chicago for the fourth annual meeting, April 17-18, 1982. Originating in Washington, D.C. and joined by contingents from New York and other cities along the way, the Turkish Express train brought conventioners to a two-day, highly profitable annual meeting. Speakers featured were Senator Charles Mathias, Jr. from Maryland and Congressman Paul Findley from Illinois.

A return trip to Turkey, August 20-30, 1982, was in the offing for a seven-person delegation at the request of the Turkish Head of State, Kenan Evren. Armenian terrorism and the image of Turks in America formed the primary focus of the discussions.

As 1982 came to an end the Assembly now numbered 34 member associations. Public education and public affairs, civil rights and legal representation of Turkish-Americans were the most important activities undertaken in the past year.

The process of building a national Turkish-American unity was carried to a new plane with the construction of a national agenda for the Assembly at the Fifth Annual Convention held in Atlanta, Georgia from April 15-17, 1983, at the world famous Westin Peachtree Plaza. Congressman Larry McDonald of Georgia gave a very well documented presentation on international terrorism. Senator John Chafee of Rhode Island spoke on the status of the proposed security assistance

for Turkey in Congress. Four new associations joined the Assembly for a total of 38 member organizations. On April 16th as part of the Assembly's Fifth Annual Meeting, a charter for the Council on Education was accepted and this important division of ATAA was inaugurated under the chairmanship of Armağan Sanver. Its agenda was far reaching in scope, performing services for the community on a national level. It would synthesize the major issues confronting the community and coordinate the efforts to resolve the problems brought to it by the associations.

Although the Assembly was still a young organization its voice was being heard. On May 27, 1983 T.V. Channel 26 (WETA, Virginia) aired a movie titled, "The Forgotten Genocide." The Assembly asked for and received equal time. On June 24, 1983, the First Vice President, Taşkin Atil, and Dr. Justin McCarthy debated two members of the Armenian community and successfully presented the Turkish point of view.

To protest the inclusion of Armenian materials in the Holocaust Museum the Assembly submitted articles to major Jewish newspapers, effectively communicating the facts behind this effort to more than a million Jewish-Americans.

1983 also marked the inception of a major fundraising drive to build a Turkish-American Cultural Center in the Nation's Capital. In the initial phase over \$20,000 was collected for this project. Additionally to raise funds, Mrs. Ayla Elekdag opened the doors of the Embassy and held a very successful Turkish bazaar in November with all profits going to the Assembly, as she has done every year since the beginning of ATAA. In December, Ambassador and Mrs. Elekdag hosted a Turkish Republic Sixtieth Anniversary Fund Raising Ball with all profits going to the Assembly's educational and cultural programs. ATAA spearheaded a fundraising drive for the victims of a devastating earthquake in Eastern Turkey that claimed over 1,100 lives as 1983 came to an end and a check for \$41,000 was presented to Mrs. Elekdag at this ball to be forwarded to the survivors in Turkey. Through the years she has been a tireless and highly successful fundraiser for the Assembly.

Cyprus came to the forefront of the issues confronting the Assembly as 1984 began. In Congress, a bill was introduced to ban aid to Turkey until it withdrew its recognition of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

On May 17-20, 1984 the Assembly held its Sixth Convention at the Washington Hilton in the Nation's Capital. Dr. Kemal Göknaar became ATAA's second President. A White House conference was a highlight of the convention, organized in response to a President Reagan meeting with Greek and Armenian community members. A fashion show by Zuhair Yorgancıoğlu gave attendees a great deal of pride in their Turkish cultural heritage.

On September 10, 1984, the House passed Resolution 247 designating April 24th as an Armenian National Day of Remembrance and not a single representative raised a voice against it. The time had come to have the Turkish-American voice effectively heard in Congress. Under its first chairman Taşkin Atil the Political Action Committee of the Assembly was formed. Now the members of the community could make contributions to the congressional campaigns and put the weight of all Turkish-Americans behind them. Today, PAC-ATAA is a separate organization headed by its President, Asil Gezen.

To bring the Assembly closer to the membership, a series of regional meetings were held in 1984. In New York the focus was on the lack of Turkish history in the American school system. On October 6-7, 1984 members gathered in Chicago for the Midwest Regional meeting and discussed "Youth and Grass Roots Activities of Turkish-American Associations."

Again, Armenian terrorists struck with deadly aim—this

time at the Turkish Embassy in Canada where a guard was killed and the Ambassador injured. Immediately following this attack on April 1, 1985 Ali Ferda Sevin, ATAA's First Vice President at the time, appeared on the MacNeil Lehrer News Hour to debate and analyze the attack with an Armenian spokesman. Sevin, with clear, precise, very factual statements, was able to expose viewers to the treacherous and far reaching consequences of Armenian terrorism.

Prime Minister Özal visited the United States in April and ATAA hosted an elegant dinner in his honor at the Washington Hilton. Also in attendance were over 60 members of the Grand National Assembly and many prominent Turkish businessmen.

New Orleans, famed for its hospitality, left no one disappointed at the Seventh Convention, held May 2-5, 1985 at the Sheraton. The issues discussed focused on the American academic response to Armenian claims and on youth concerns. Creole cuisine, jazz and Turkish folk dancing made the annual banquet a huge success.

The issue of greatest concern in 1985 was the Armenian resolution before Congress. One of the most beneficial and crucial documents that was presented to congressmen was the declaration by 69 eminent American Scholars of Ottoman and Turkish history that refuted the basic tenants of the resolution. The Assembly published this declaration in *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* to draw public attention to this insidious resolution. 1985 ended on an upbeat note with the defeat of this resolution on December 12th.

In February, 1986 a very special Strategic Planning Group comprising members of the Board of Trustees, Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons assembled and issued a communique detailing areas where the Assembly needed to grow and where the organizational structure needed fine tuning.

In the Spring of 1986, ATAA issued a Special Report on the suffering of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria. Members were informed on actions to take with human rights organizations to focus world public opinion on the Bulgarian Government gun-point assimilation campaign. At the Eight Convention, held in Washington, D.C., a resolution was passed by the delegates condemning the human rights abuses of the Bulgarian Government and which set in motion a protest campaign.

Another major issue presented at the Convention was the current status of U.S. Turkish relations. Ajda Pekkan was the superstar entertainment attraction at the annual banquet, much to the delight of everyone. During the delegates meeting the reins of leadership passed to Tarhan Danişman who became the third President of the Assembly, and the Assembly gained three new associations for a total of 41 under the umbrella.

In September an international bazaar for trade and business was held at New Hampshire College. College educators and local business leaders were amazed at the stumbling blocks Turkey's foes put into U.S. Turkish relations. In Newark, NJ, members of the ATAA Board of Directors met with the leadership of the New York Federation to issue a unity communique.

A major trip to Turkey by the Assembly leadership provided high visibility of ATAA's activities in the United States to the Turkish public. Both President Evren and Prime Minister Ozal received the delegation, as well as ministers and parliamentarians.

During November a North Central Regional Conference was held in Michigan bringing the Assembly in touch with Turkish-American psychiatrists from around the country. Also in November, a community forum was held in New York to point out how vital community involvement is in solving the

problems faced by Turkish-Americans.

ATAA visited Florida in January and in March participated in a Southern Regional Conference in New Orleans. A highly successful First Youth Convention held in Princeton, N.J. followed in April. The young Turkish-Americans left with a deep pride in their Turkish heritage and a resolve to carry on the Assembly's work in their communities.

With the magnificence of Süleyman in Washington, D.C. the venue for the Ninth Convention had to be the Nation's Capital. With this backdrop the convention took on a special elegance. Four congressmen really drove home the point that Turkish-American input was welcome and desperately needed when issues concerning Turkey came up in Congress. Delegates admitted three new associations and the Assembly now numbered 44 component associations.

In June 1987 President Danişman stepped down having a different set of goals and objectives for the Assembly than those agreed upon by the Board of Directors. The treasurer, Tunca Iskir, was nominated by the Board and became the fourth ATAA President.

Waiting until many were on vacation and the Congress was just about to adjourn, the Armenians made their major thrust to run their resolution through Congress. With a night and day major letter writing, telephoning, and visiting campaign by all of Turkey's admirers, this legislation was defeated on August 7, 1987.

The Armenians lost this one but were more active than ever in California trying to put their version of history into the social studies curriculum. New York has a similar curriculum under study. A second printing of *Armenian Allegations: Myth and Reality* has just been published and will give us a valuable tool as we confront this unceasing attack on our very essence.

At the 10th Convention in California, Tunca Iskir was elected President with Bonnie Joy Kaslan as First Vice President.

On October 8, 1988, at the very historic ATAA Southern Regional Conference leaders of the Sephardic Jewish community as well as other Jewish-American representatives assembled with Turkish-Americans to set the groundwork for 1992, 500th Anniversary Commemorations of the welcoming of Jews in Turkey. The formation of the Shared Jewish Turkish History Committee was announced during that conference.

In 1988, ATAA moved ahead to appoint an Executive Director to handle the daily operation of the Central Office and Harun Kazaz filled this position. With this professional staff in place and with professional volunteers, ATAA began publication of the first Turkish-American newspaper in the United States. "The Turkish Times" was published monthly during the first year and quickly gained a larger reading audience.

A national Media Watch and Response Committee, under Dr. Tamer Acikalin began keeping tabs on the way Turks and Turkey are handled by the media. When defaming or positive coverage appears, ATAA responds with letters or personal contacts to set the record straight, or praise the work of individuals. This committee has now been organized into teams by Bekir Onursal and monitors over 65 newspapers nationwide.

A Business Network Committee, headed by Ömer Esener and Oğuz Babüroğlu, began to develop programs to assist businessmen both in Turkey and the United States by acting as a liaison and providing service and information.

The Immigration Review Committee, under Şadi Dinleş and Yalcın Oral, has begun a study of immigration policy toward Turks. In 1989, it moved to the forefront to assist in the placement of immigrants from Turkey under the OP 1 immigration program. Generous offers came in from the

community and prospective immigrants were matched immediately.

The Council on Education and Public Affairs chaired by Bonnie Kaslan took the teachers' workshop, begun by ATA-DC, to all parts of the U.S. Under the auspices of this committee, Dr. Justin McCarthy wrote a manual on "Turks and Armenians" to be used in high schools.

ATAA celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a gala convention in Crystal City, Virginia which honored 137 individuals who made ATAA possible in formative years. During the Farewell Luncheon, the community said goodbye to His Excellency Dr. Şükrü Elekdağ, the ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United States, who was retiring from the foreign service after his ten-year stay in Washington, D.C.. He had encouraged the Turkish-American community all across the U.S. to unite under the ATAA umbrella.

The Assembly welcomed His Excellency Nüzhet Kandemir, the new ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United States in August, 1989 and he immediately took off for Washington State for a bilateral trade session in Seattle where

he later met with the Turkish-American community there.

By October 1989, the Armenian resolution resurfaced in the U.S. Senate. The ATAA grassroots opposition campaign and hotline generated a flood of support for the Turkish cause and played a major role in having the resolution shelved until February. Again, the hotline and the total involvement of the professional staff of ATAA, the Turkish American community and friends of Turks were able to block passage of this legislation.

The Turkish Times began publication on a bi-monthly basis in April, 1990 and is now produced entirely in the United States, reaching more readers everyday in this country, Turkey, Europe, Australia, the Middle East and Asia.

The Eleventh Annual Convention will bring ATAA solidly into the 1990's with a greatly increased membership, several new associations and a new leadership at the helm. ATAA is looking forward to growth and expansion in this decade and is counting on all Turkish-Americans and friends of Turks to join in. In return ATAA will continue to give the highest possible and most deserved service to the community.

**... AND
11th CONVENTION
ACTIVITIES
IN 1990**

Program of Activities

ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS 11th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Washington Hilton Hotel
Washington, D.C.
May 10-14, 1990

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1990

12:00 noon-4:00 p.m. REGISTRATION and HOSPITALITY SUITE
(Concourse Level)

3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. **SPECIAL BRIEFING** (Military Room)
**Topic: FIRST ANNUAL STATUS REPORT ON TURKISH COMMUNITIES
WORLDWIDE**

Moderator: Professor Justin McCarthy
University of Louisville, Dept. of History

- BULGARIA: MOST RECENT EYE-WITNESS REPORT FROM BULGARIA
The Honorable Jim Moody (D-WI), U.S. House of Representatives
- GREECE: GREEK ELECTION PRACTICES
Ahmet Sandikcioglu, President, U.S. Council on Human Rights in the Balkans
- U.S.S.R.: AZERBAIJAN AND SOVIET TURKIC REPUBLICS
Paul Henze, RAND Corporation
- CHINA: AN INSIDE REPORT
Sami Kohen, Foreign Affairs Columnist, *Milliyet Newspaper*
- SPECIAL AWARD PRESENTATION

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1990

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. REGISTRATION AND HOSPITALITY SUITE
(Concourse Level)

9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. SYMPOSIUM (Lincoln East)
**Topic: HOW CHANGES IN EUROPE MAY INFLUENCE U.S.-TURKISH
RELATIONS**

Moderator: Heath Lowry, Ph.D.
Executive Director Institute of Turkish Studies

From Turkey:

- TURKISH GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE
Bulent Akarcali, Member of Parliament and Co-chairman of the Turkey-EC Joint Parliamentary Commission
- TURKISH BUSINESSMEN'S PERSPECTIVE
Cem Boyner, President, Turkish American Businessmen's Association
- PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES
Sami Kohen, Foreign Affairs Columnist, *Milliyet Newspaper*

From the United States:

- ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW ON THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND NEW EUROPE
Ralph Johnson, Deputy Asst. Secretary for European Affairs, Department of State
- THE ROLE OF NATO IN THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF EUROPE
George Bader, Principle Director of European and NATO Policy, Department of Defense

- 12:00 noon-2:00 p.m. **LUNCHEON** (Tickets required)
(Monroe Room)
Keynote Speaker: H.E. Morton Abromowitz
U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey
- 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. **FORUM** (Lincoln East)
Topic: CYPRUS: UNRAVELING THE PAST—CHARTING THE FUTURE
Moderator: Dr. Tamer Açıkalın
ATAA V.P. Southern Region
- UNRAVELING THE PAST
Necati Ertegün, Legal Advisor to the President of the TRNC and past
Minister of Defense and Foreign Affairs
 - CRISIS INTERVENTION: IMPLICATIONS OF ONE EPISODE
Ambassador Parker Hart, Former Ambassador to Turkey
 - FROM ILLUSIONS OF UNITY TO REALITIES OF SEPARATISM
Prof. Hail İbrahim Salih, Texas Wesleyan University
 - U.S. CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES AND REACTIONS TO THE
CYPRUS CRISIS
Joseph Youssouf, Attorney at Law
- 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. **PANEL DISCUSSION** (Lincoln West)
**Topic: IMPORTANCE OF U.S.-TURKISH TECHNICAL COOPERATION
AND POTENTIAL COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES**
Sponsored by: Turkish American Veterans Organization and
ATAA Business Network Council
Moderator: Ömer Esener, Co-chairman
ATAA Business Network Council
- U.S. POLICY ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION
The Honorable Don Ritter (R-PA), U.S. House of Representatives
 - OBJECTIVES, PROSPECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES
The Honorable Bülent Akarcalı, Member of the Grand National
Assembly of the Republic of Turkey
 - SECTORS FOR INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION
Gazi Ercel, CEO of Tütün Bank of Turkey, General Coordinator of
Yaşar Holding of Turkey
 - U.S. SECTORS FOR COOPERATION
John McMunigal, Senior Program Manager, Atlantic Research
Corporation
- 5:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. **THE TURKISH TIMES OPEN HOUSE** (Lincoln East)
Meet the editors and staff
- 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. **TURKISH AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION**
For guests registered for two activities and by invitation only

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1990

- 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. REGISTRATION AND HOSPITALITY SUITE
(Concourse Level)
- 8:30 a.m.-12 noon **ANNUAL DELEGATES' MEETING**
(Thoroughbred Room)
- 12:15 p.m.-2:15 p.m. **LUNCHEON** (Tickets Required)
(Monroe Room)
Keynote Speaker: H. E. Nüzhet Kandemir
Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United
States of America
- SPECIAL AWARD PRESENTATION

- 2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. **PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING**
 The First Annual National Forum
 (Thoroughbred Room)
 Open to Presidents and Vice Presidents of component associations only
- 2:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. **NATIONAL ACTIVITIES MEETINGS**
 (Lincoln East)
 Open to any interested registered guest
- 2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. ● Media Watch and Response Committee Meeting
 Special Topic: IMAGE OF TURKS IN THE U.S.
 Guest Speaker: Professor Justin McCarthy
 University of Louisville
- 4:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. ● Congressional Visitation Corps and Speakers Bureau Meeting
- 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. ● ATAA-Business Network Council Meeting
- 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. **ATAA COCKTAIL RECEPTION** (Crystal Corridor)
- 8:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. **ANNUAL BANQUET*** (Tickets Required)
 (Crystal Ballroom)
 8:30- 9:45 p.m. Dinner
 9:45-10:30 p.m. Award Presentations
 10:30- 1:00 a.m. Musical Entertainment

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 1990

- 9-00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. **PRESIDENTS' BREAKFAST** (By Invitation Only)
 Guest Speaker: H. E. Nuzhet Kandemir
- 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. **ATAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**
 (Monroe Room)
- 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. **NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM**
 (Monroe Room)
 Session III—by invitation only

Important Notes: Registration is required for all convention activities.

All speakers listed have been invited.

*Attire: Dark Suit, Black Tie or Military Uniform

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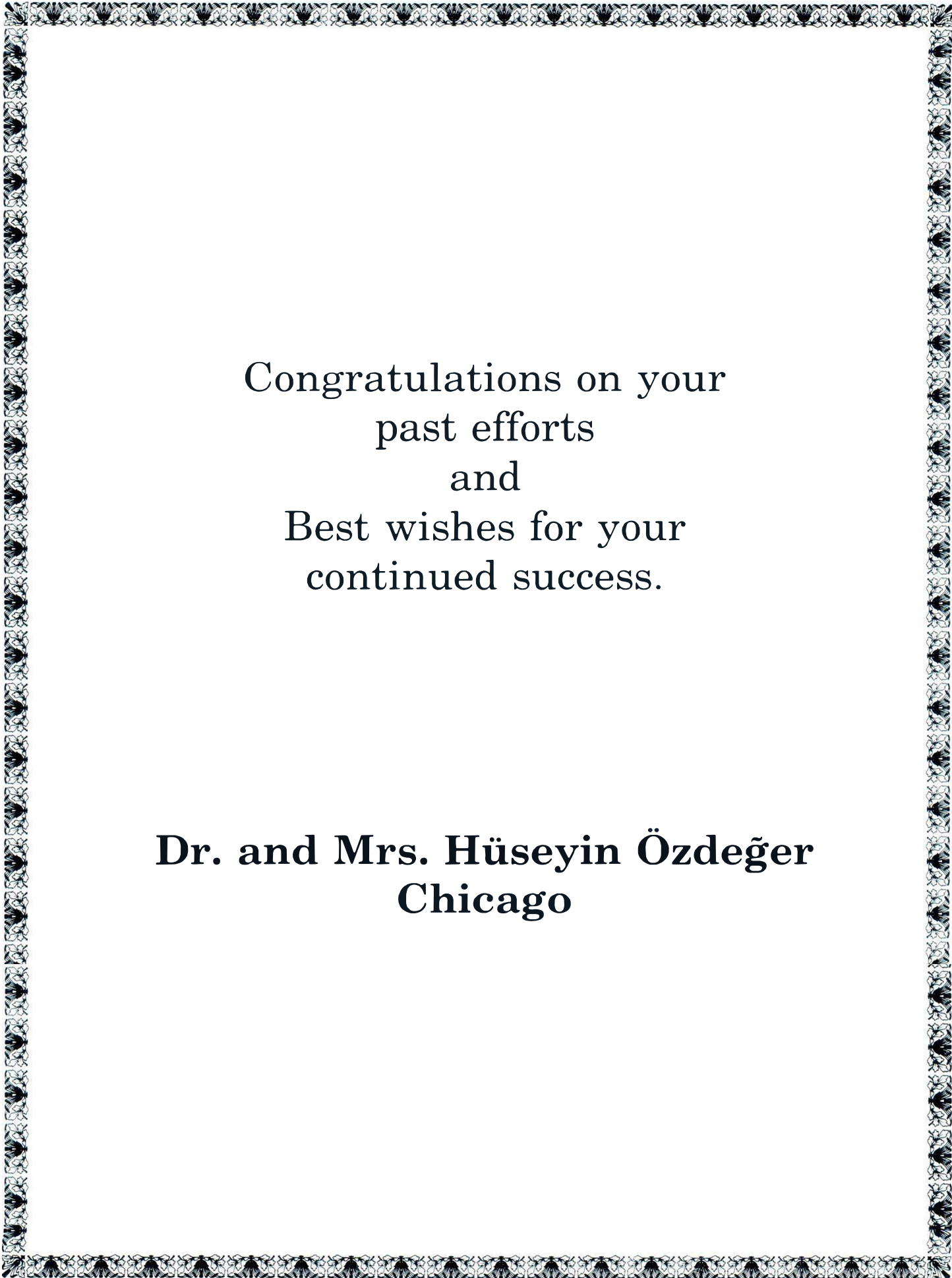
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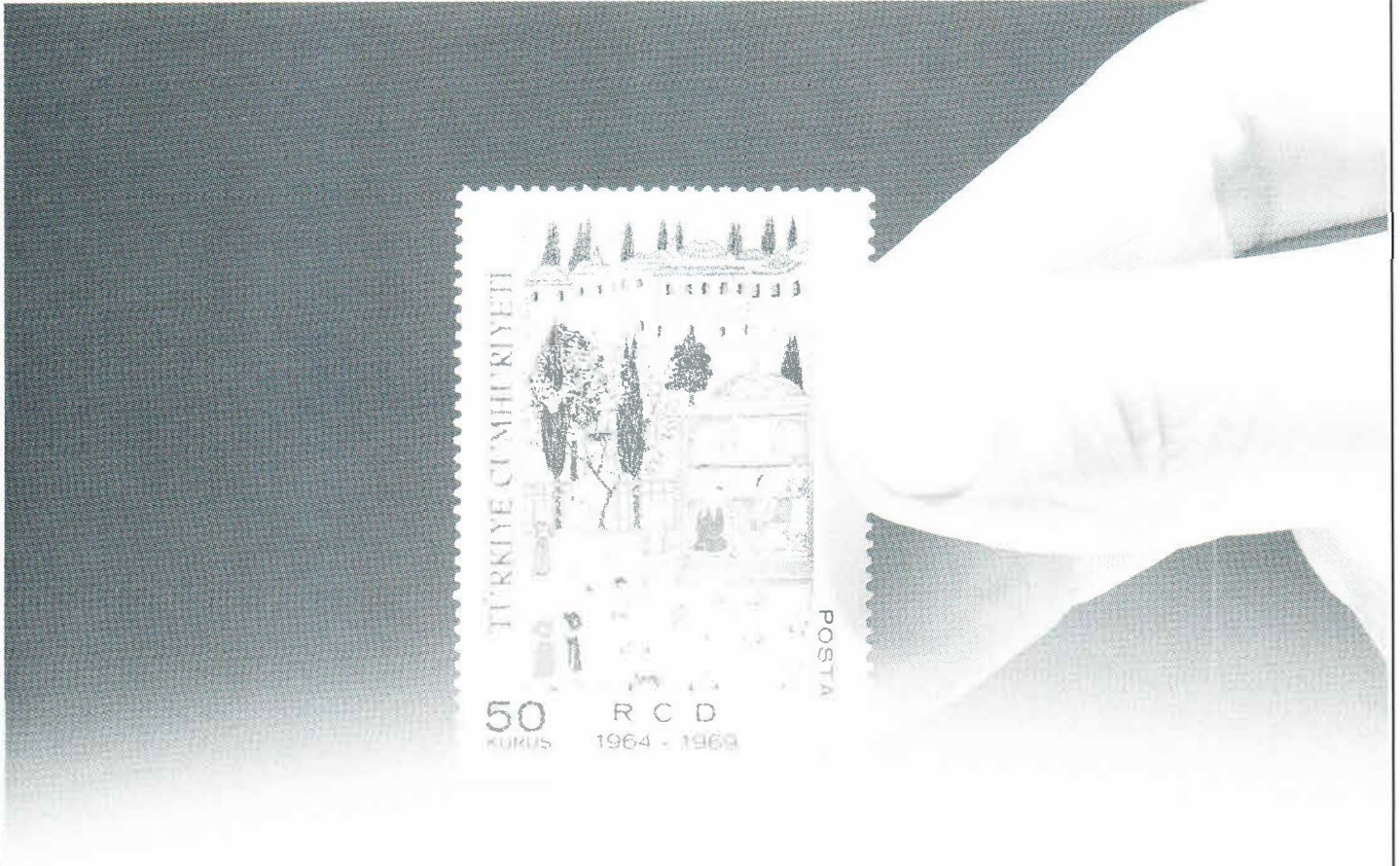
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