

**Assembly of
Turkish American
Associations
24th Annual Convention
January 30-31, 2004
Fairmont Hotel
Washington, DC**

Evaluation of:

The New Plateau in Turkish-American Relations

First in a series of highlighting of Turkic countries in ATAA conventions:

Azerbaijan: Her relations with the US and the Turkey

Turkish Language and the Alphabet:

Turkish Spoken in Turkey & Common Alphabet in the Turkic World

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Assembly of Turkish American Associations

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ATAA President's Message

Welcome! The quarter-century-old ATAA is having its 24th Annual Convention and we are so delighted to see you all with us today! Many thanks on behalf of all Turkish-Americans and friends of Turkey!

In this day and age the strength of nations is measured not by their military might or arsenals, but by their dedication to democracy and individual freedoms.

In this context, free and independent media, and independent non-governmental organizations such as ATAA play important and historic roles. ATAA, as the umbrella organization of fifty-four Turkish-American organizations in the U.S., two in Canada, and one in Turkey, is proud to be a strong player in the United States, Turkey, and even in the Turkish world.

It is organizations such as us who must stand up for the common good of our societies. It is us who must bring clarification to misconceptions. It is us who must speak the truth; the truth about not only what we perceive to be unfair in this country, but also as representatives of an ethnic group, the truth about Turkish American relations, and developments in Turkey, all the while however never forgetting to give credit when and where it's due, and express thanks to those who do right by their people. Accomplishing the above task however requires the responsibility, accountability and dignity of the organizations in question.

I declare to you that ATAA embodies in itself all of these qualities. We are an independent, responsible, accountable, democratic, transparent, and inclusive organization which deserves the trust

of our home, the United States of America, and also the future increased support of our members and friends. As a direct result of implementing such correct organizational principles, ATAA has been the focus of positive attention from various circles. I for instance have been invited to Europe to speak with other Turkish entities and NGOs and share with them our ideas of how not only just to survive, but also how better to integrate with the societies in which we live, how better to create a better positive change in our new homes for ourselves and our countrymen, and how best to improve the Turkish image.

Turkish American relations went through a difficult period in 2003. However, we see this period not as a future obstacle in the bilateral relations but a hurdle which has already been overcome. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's current and timely visit just happens to validate this observation. America and Turkey, as always in the past, should continue working hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, for much depends in the region and the world on the Turkish-US friendship and alliance.

Although during our annual ATAA Delegation Visit to Turkey last June we became an expressive channel through which both sides improved communications, should there ever be another undesirable occasion in the future when misunderstandings or lack of communication will strain the relationship and when common good will be overlooked by both sides, ATAA will be more assertive than ever to insure that common sense prevails sooner than later. And today, this particular additional point seems to make the importance of ATAA even clearer. We are a

hardworking, crystal clear and dependable channel for the good of both sides.

We, as Turks living around the globe, are a rather interesting ethnic group at least in an anthropological sense. The Turks for instance happen to inhabit a larger area on earth than any other ethnic group, therefore in one form or another, Turkish language is spoken in more parts of the world than any other language. There is no other ethnic-cultural group with more diverse physical attributes speaking the same language than the Turks. From Finland to China, with the most identifiable physical differences, one will still find Turks speaking Turkish.

I believe as Turkish-Americans living in this country, and as ATAA, we have a historical duty and an unusual opportunity to be a facilitator for the Turkish world. This opportunity is unusual but very fortunate because countless representatives of the Turkish world happened to have met one another in this county, therefore giving another meaning for us Turks to the phrases "The Melting Pot" or "The Mixed Salad". As Turks, we must take advantage of this opportunity, and hug one another here first, and then perhaps export it to the parts of the world where it is not being given a priority. Such a concentration in America is bound to create a new focus on this concept in many parts of the Turkish world.

Again, in a sense, strong organizations such as ATAA, due to their location in America, has an opportunity and a duty to either introduce or emphasize the merits of not only the Turkicness, the sense of "being a Turk" and the Turkic solidarity but also something else that is equally important: Democracy, and the integral part the non-governmental organizations play in it.

Last year we've made a decision to highlight a Turkic country in every ATAA convention. As we approached Azerbaijan in 2003 for the 2004 ATAA Convention, I was overwhelmed with their

outpouring reciprocation to our warm feelings and intentions. I am indebted to the Azerbaijanis for their enormous support of this year's ATAA Convention. I am also pleased to host many Azerbaijani-Americans here in Washington, D.C.

Once again, welcome to all, thank you very much for coming.

Yours Sincerely,
Ercüment Kılıç



Turkish President's Message

On the occasion of its 24th Annual Convention, I congratulate the Assembly of Turkish-American Associations, which has contributed to the development of mutual understanding, cooperation and friendship between Turkey and the United States.

The relations between Turkey and the United States, our friend and ally, acquired new dimensions in the aftermath of 9/11 within the framework of combating terrorism. The difficulties that we recently faced have been surmounted and have not affected the firm nature of our relations. Turkey and the United States, with their time-tested and strong friendship, continue to expand their relations on long-standing solid grounds.

At this juncture of history, our countries are well placed to achieve comprehensive cooperation in a multitude of areas based on mutual interest, especially in fighting terrorism. The terrorism we are fighting against stands in front of us as a challenge that requires close cooperation and effective action.

Based on our alliance of half a century, we are confident that our cooperation with the United States will continue on its successful path. The valuable contributions of the Turkish- American community in the United States have always helped to solidify these relations and to overcome the difficulties of the past.

The Assembly, which convenes the distinguished representatives of the constantly growing Turkish-American community has, over time and through the enhancement of its functions, assumed an important role in furthering Turkish-American relations.

By serving as a bridge between Turkey and the United States, the Assembly has contributed in a most constructive manner to the advancement of these relations, enduring the

challenges, promoting the economic and strategic position of our country, confronting the adverse effects of the activities of rival lobbies in this country and generally developing the ties between Turkish and American nations.

The ongoing support of Turkish-Americans and the Assembly of Turkish-American Associations will, without any doubt, continue to strengthen the relations between the two countries. The Assembly provides the necessary flow of information not only to Turkish-Americans, but also to the American public at large and the business community through its efficient nation-wide associations.

I appreciate the contributions made by the Assembly and am confident that it will achieve greater accomplishments in the days ahead.

I would like to thank all the members of the Assembly of Turkish-American Associations and its associations for their commendable efforts and wish them continued success on the 24th Annual Convention, which I am sure will give impetus to the Assembly's future endeavors.

Ahmet Necdet Sezer

President of the Republic of Turkey



Prime Minister's Message

On the occasion of its 24th Annual Convention, I congratulate the leadership and members of the Assembly of Turkish-American Associations.

We recognize with appreciation the accomplishments of the Assembly of Turkish-American Associations which convenes the distinguished members of the Turkish-American community in the United States and which enhances its functions and diversifies its activities.

The Assembly, through the tireless efforts of its members and associations, is undertaking valuable efforts in developing Turkish-American relations, strengthening solidarity and cooperation within the Turkish-American community, familiarizing the young Turkish-Americans with authentic Turkish culture and confronting and counterbalancing the activities of rival lobbies in the United States. Therefore, the Assembly plays an important role in helping the Turkish-American community to organize itself and preserve its unity, providing the flow of information on Turkey and Turks to the American public, strengthening the friendship between our nations and the furthering Turkish-American relations. We greatly appreciate the accomplishments of the Assembly.

We attribute special importance to our relations with the United States, our long-standing friend and ally, as well as the deepening and promotion of these relations. We are pleased to see that this desire and determination are reciprocated by the United States.

Despite the recent difficulties stemming from the Iraq issue, the relations between Turkey and the United States have gained new dimensions within the framework of the fight against terrorism and close cooperation in Afghanistan in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

Our two countries have been cooperating in a vast geography and on a multitude of issues. Our countries will continue their comprehensive cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis in different areas and especially in the fight against terrorism. No one should doubt that the relations between Turkey and the United States will strengthen and our cooperation will continue to develop. The valuable efforts of the Assembly of Turkish-American Associations and the ongoing support of Turkish-Americans would be indispensable to this end. I am sure the Assembly will continue to pursue its mission and responsibilities in this respect.

I take this opportunity to thank the leaderships and members of the Assembly of Turkish-American Associations and its associations as well as my fellow citizens, Turkish-American and American friends of Turkey for their commendable efforts and wish them success on the 24th Annual Convention of the Assembly.

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey



Foreign Minister's Message

On the occasion of their 24th Annual Convention, I salute the leadership and members of the Assembly of Turkish-American Associations, which, as an umbrella organization, convenes an important component of distinguished Turkish citizens living in the United States and Turkish-Americans, and I congratulate them for their accomplishments.

The relations between Turkey and the United States are multi-faceted and based on mutual respect, and have an historical aspect. In addition to their defense and security related dimension, these relations also involve a multitude of areas such as energy, economy and trade, regional cooperation, human rights and promotion of democracy. The Balkans, The Eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East, the Caucasus and the Black Sea and Caspian Basins are parts of the world which constitute other focal points of our attention.

With the new international climate in the aftermath of 9/11, our cooperation has achieved a new dimension in terms of combating terrorism. As close allies and friends, Turkey and the United States constantly consult each other and cooperate closely on issues like crisis prevention, crisis management, containment of regional conflicts, peace-keeping operations, deterrence against states which do not comply with international practices, the fight against terrorism and organized crime and non-proliferation of WMD.

Last year, new elements have been added to the relations between Turkey and the United States. However, despite the ups and downs of the new situation, the relations between the two countries continued to advance on a sound basis. Our mutual efforts for the promotion, both in terms of quantity and quality, of our relations, for the fulfillment of the full potential of our economic and trade relations, have continued. The distinguished Turkish-American commu-

nity and the Assembly as its umbrella organization have played an important role in acting as a bridge and extensively contributed to the Turkish-American relations.

We attribute special importance to our relations with the United States and want to further deepen them. We are pleased to witness the same desire and determination on the part of the United States. During the recent high-level contacts, the US side constantly emphasized the importance it attributes to its relations with Turkey and Turkey's contribution to regional peace and stability. The friendship and cooperation between Turkey and the United States are being carried to new heights based on mutual understanding and interest. Our alliance of over 50 years causes us to believe that our cooperation with the United States will be even more intense in the future. Consequently, the valuable contributions of the Turkish community in the United States should vigorously continue.

I hope that the Assembly will continue the role that it plays in strengthening Turkish-American relations and its constructive activities in providing the American public with accurate information on Turkey, in helping Turkish citizens and Turkish-Americans to preserve their heritage, in confronting the anti-Turkey activities of some circles and in deepening the friendship between the Turkish and American nations.

I would like to thank the leaderships and all the members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations and its affiliate organizations for their commendable efforts and wish them success on the 24th Annual Convention.

Abdullah Gül,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey



Ambassador of Turkey's Message

On the occasion of its 24th Annual Convention, I congratulate the Assembly of Turkish American Associations and convey my greetings to its members.

Turkey and the United States share a common vision of promoting and preserving regional and global peace and stability. Our respective national interests converge and complement each other on a multitude of issues and in a vast geography. Common values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law bind us together. We are strategic partners.

The Turkish-American community has been a key factor in the promotion of the Turkish-American partnership through civil organizations like the Assembly. I am confident that the Assembly, which has made important progress over the years in terms of rallying Turkish-Americans and American friends of Turkey behind common objectives and thus served as an effective means to promote Turkish-American relations, will continue to contribute to the strengthening of the unity and the capabilities of the Turkish community in the United States.

ATAA annual conventions have proven to be an important landmark for those involved in Turkish-American affairs. These conventions take up issues important to Turkey and endeavor to contribute to the progress of Turkish-American relations. The topic ATAA chose to highlight this year brings a new approach to its conventions and reflects, once again, the key role that Turkey plays in a turbulent part of the world.

I commend all the members of ATAA for their efforts to deepen the ties between Turkey and the United States and extend my best wishes for a productive and successful convention.

H.E. Osman Faruk Loğoğlu
*Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey
to the United States*



Ambassador of Azerbaijan's Message

On the eve of the 24th Annual Convention I present my best wishes of further success to the Assembly of Turkish American Associations and congratulate the members and the Convention participants on yet another milestone in the ATAA's history.

Your noble mission of bringing together Turkey, your historic Motherland, and your homeland, the United States, has already become a success above measure. Turkey's strategic significance, its importance for the United States, economic, political, and security-wise, is being ably supported by the educational activity of your members on the Capitol Hill, and interaction with the US public in general.

As somebody who has attended these forums during the last ten years I can attest that the annual conferences have become events of excep-

tional international prominence. Thus, it is of no surprise that this year a much larger delegation from Azerbaijan, including members of the cabinet is coming to be part of the great celebration of Turkish spirit.

I wish to the conference participants fruitful and intensive discussions, productive work and success in their endeavors.

H.E. Hafız M. Pashayev

*Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the United States*



State Minister of Turkey's Message

Dear President Ercüment Kılıç, and ATAA Members,
I congratulate you and ATAA, and convey my warmest greetings on your 24th Annual Convention.

Your valuable efforts have greatly contributed to strengthening and diversification of our multifaceted relationship with the United States.

US-Turkish relations will undoubtedly play an integral role in converting the challenge of the East-West partnership into concrete projects of cooperation. I am confident that the existing partnership between our two countries will grow with an ever diversified and enriched alliance that will serve our mutual interests and the cause of global peace and stability.

I very much appreciate and commend not only your recent, well thought-out contributions to countering organized attempts to tarnish the Turkish heritage, but also your striving for being an excellent NGO, your efforts to embrace all segments of the Turkish-American community, your recently expanding activities, and your long-term approach for solutions for Turkish-American concern in America.

Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın
State Minister of Turkey

Congressional Turkish Caucus' Message

Dear President Kılıç and ATAA Members,

We want to express our warmest greetings to the members of the Assembly of Turkish American Associations who have gathered in Washington DC for your organization's 24th annual convention. The ATAA serves as one of the foremost leaders in promoting U.S.-Turkish relations, and we are grateful to your organization for its unwavering commitment to the future of our bilateral ties.

For over 50 years, from the Korean War to Operation Enduring Freedom, Turkey has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the United States as one of our most valuable strategic partners and friends. For more than a decade following the end of the Gulf War, Turkey allowed American and British pilots to patrol Northern Iraq, which debilitated and contained Saddam Hussein, provided a safe haven for millions of Kurds and contributed significantly to the overwhelming military superiority our forces recently enjoyed in Iraq. Following September 11, Turkey demonstrated its steadfast commitment to the war against terror and aided the United States by leading the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. In Operation Iraqi Freedom, Turkey opened the use of its airspace for the deployment of coalition forces, permitted the use of

its territory and equipment for the overland transfer of fuel and humanitarian aid and has opened the use of its bases for the transit of American troops from Iraq.

The recent series of bombings in Istanbul serve as a solemn reminder of the shared challenges facing both the United States and Turkey, as together we face a scourge of international terror. Now, more than ever, our partnership with Turkey is critical to maintaining global security and defending U.S. interests in Europe, Middle East and Central Asia.

We are confident that Turkey will continue its role as a leader advocating stability, prosperity and cooperation in the region, and we want to thank ATAA for its commitment to strengthening the ties between the United States and our long-standing ally, Turkey.

Best wishes for a productive conference and continued success.

Cong. Robert Wexler (FL)
Cong. Ed Whitfield (KY)
Cong. Kay Granger (TX)



Assembly of Turkish American Associations

***Home of 54
Turkish
American
Associations
across U.S.,
Canada and
Turkey***

***Founded in 1979,
the mission of the
Assembly of
Turkish American
Associations
(ATAA) is to unite
to the fast growing
community of
Turkish
Americans, friends
of Turkey and
their associations
throughout the
United States;
preserve and
protect the identity
of the Turkish
American
community and
build bridges
between the
American and
Turkish people.***

ATAA was co-founded by the American Turkish Association of Washington and the Maryland American Turkish Association in an effort to create a national organization representing the Turkish American community. The first meeting of the ATAA General Assembly was held in May of 1980 in Washington. Delegates from 26 organizations participated and created a coordination committee to write the constitution and bylaws. The bylaws of ATAA were ratified on November 16, 1980 and the first board of ATAA elected.

From this nucleus, the Assembly has grown into an organization that represents 54 Turkish American organizations in the United States, Canada and Turkey. Today, the Assembly is an influential and fast growing civic organization that pursues the interests of Turkish Americans and friends of Turkey in Washington and beyond, as well as contributes to the strengthening of relations between the United States and Turkey.

A growing base of individual ATAA members support the work of the Assembly through dues and donations. Financial assistance to the operations of ATAA is also granted from the ATAA Endowment Fund established to secure the long-term growth of the organization.

To fulfill its mission and objectives, ATAA undertakes a number of activities, such as educational seminars for Turkish American communities on grassroots advocacy and civic leadership; conferences on contemporary political, social and economic issues related to Turkey and US-Turkish relations; and cultural events to promote Turkey's rich traditions, art and heritage. Working as an information clearinghouse, ATAA regularly publishes reference material on issues that concern the Turkish American community. The Assembly is also the publisher of a bi-monthly magazine, The Turkish World. ATAA hosts one of the most dynamic website on Turkey and maintains an extensive E-mail communication network. For more information on the daily work of ATAA, visit www.ataa.org.

ATAA is a 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Dues and donations are tax-deductible.

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Ercüment Kılıç

President

Mr. Kılıç was born in 1958 in Ankara. He is a graduate of UT-Austin with a BS in Economics and International Politics. He has served numerous times as

President of TURANT and as VP of ATAA.

Among his accomplishments is his involvement and arrangement of Congressman Jim Moody's trip as the first US Congressman in history to visit Azerbaijan. Due to his formal training in performing arts, he has been a cultural ambassador for Turkey since 1977. He has been invited by various organizations to do seminars and workshops on Turkic cultures in all 50 states in the US and in England, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, the Republic of China, Hong Kong, and Japan.



Özgür Karaosmanoğlu,

Treasury

Mr. Karaosmanoğlu received his BA in Economics as well as his MBA from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. In addition to his past two years of service as Secretary General of the ATAA and his active membership in Turkish-American Business Forum, Özgür previously served as a Board Member for the ATA-DC. He is very active in the national and local Tulane University Alumni Associations and is a former President of the local alumni chapter. Özgür has enjoyed working in the financial industry for the past 17 years and is a Senior Vice President, Investments and International Sales in the Washington, DC office of Raymond James & Associates. He lives in Bethesda with his wife Lori and their three children, Leyla, Alexander and Sara. Özgür is very active at the kids' school events, on the playing field and in their extracurricular activities.



Vural Cengiz,

President-Elect

Mr. Cengiz was born in Turkey, 1959. He graduated from Ankara University's School of Political Sciences (SBF) in 1980 with a B.A. degree. He holds an M.A. degree on

Economics from Çukurova University of Turkey. He received his MBA from State University of West Georgia in 1989. He is working on his doctorate degree. Member of the Turkish American Cultural Association of Georgia since 1986. President of TACA-GA from 1994 to 1997. Vice-President of ATAA from 1996 to 2000: Executive Board member and Treasurer of ATAA since 2000. He received the High Service Award of TACA-GA in 1998, Meritorious Service Award of ATAA in 1996, and the Distinguished Service Award of ATAA in 1998. He is the President of European Concepts, Inc. and American Culinary Development, Inc. He is also a board member of Turcorp, Inc. and is married to Sabina.



Orhan Kaymakçalan,

Past-President

Dr. Kaymakçalan was born in 1948. He graduated from Hacettepe University Medical School, Ankara, in 1972. After completing his surgical residency

in Basic Science in Hacettepe Hospital in 1973, he performed his Surgical Residency at Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center in Chicago, IL between 1974 and 1978. Receiving his Fellowship in Hand Surgery from University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, in 1983. He is currently Chief of the Section of Hand and Reconstructive Microsurgery at Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center. He is a member of American and Chicago Society for Surgery of the Hand. Dr. Kaymakçalan presented multiple papers in National and International Hand Society Meetings and Lectures. His publications "Dorsal Finger Subcutaneous Rotational Flap" printed in "Technical Tips for Hand Surgery" was published October of 1993. He is married to Nezahat and has two children, Sevil and Ömer.

Regional Vice Presidents



Oya Bain

Capital Region

DC, MD, VA, Turkey

Mrs. Bain is a graduate of Robert College, came to the United States as a Fulbright scholar to do post graduate work in Biochemistry. In her professional career, she worked as a Clinical Chemist and Laboratory Director in the Clinical Pathology laboratories of several medical centers in Canada and the US. In 1998, she retired from her position as the Laboratory Director from Georgetown University Medical Center. Oya Bain has been involved in the Turkish -American community issues since 1970s. As the board member of American Turkish Association of Washington DC.(ATA-DC), she held positions as the chair of ATA-DC Membership, Lecture and Turkish Radio committees. She was also a board member and secretary of ATAA in the 1990s and chaired the 1992 ATAA Turkish Heritage month activities. She Has been ATAA Secretary General in 1998-2000, and ATAA Vice President since 2000. She is the editor of ATANews, a monthly publication of ATA-DC and frequent contributor to Turkish Times. In addition to ATA-DC, she serves on the boards of Ataturk Society of America (ASA), Washington Turkish Women's Association (WTWA), and Maryland American Turkish Association (MATA) and serves as a liaison among various local associations and ATAA. Oya Bain lives in Bethesda, with her husband Ralph Bain, a chemist and educator, retired from the National Institutes of Health. They have one daughter, Tuvana, a physician in New York.



Nurten Ural

Midcentral Region

IN, KY, MI, OH

Mrs.Ural recievedher Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Environment and Design and a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Interior Design and Human Shelter for the Special

Needy from Michigan State University. Nurten is the owner of an interior design firm in Farmington Hills, MI, Ural Interiors, Inc. She has received many awards for her business accomplishments and community service work including receiving the 1998 Athena Award, Business Accomplishment Award, Republican of the Year Award and served on the Board of Directors of two Chamber of Commerces, serving as Vice Chair and Chair on one of them. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Women Business Owners, Historic Homes, of the Republican Club, and on the Board of the Farmington Area Homeowners Association. Nurten served as Treasurer and as President of the Turkish American Cultural Association of Michigan.



Mehmet Çelebi

Midwestern Region

IL, IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI

Mr.Çelebi received his BA in International Relations at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and he is currently doing an MBA at the University of Illinois-Chicago He is the current President of TACA-Chicago. Prior to that he was Chairman of the Board of TACA from 2000-2001. Current he is a Financial Advisor at Prudential Financial. He is married to Stephanie Oppenheimer-Çelebi and has one child, a son, 5 months old-Eren Çelebi.

Tomris Azeri

New York Metro Region

NJ, NYC, boroughs of NY and suburbs

Ms. Azeri works at a family business as a finance manager She attended and graduated from the CPI (Computer Programming Institute of Paterson NJ)and studied at Montclair State College. Tomris has already served ATAA as regional VP in 1998-2000, and is currently the president of Azerbaijan Society of America. She is also serving on the Coordination Council of the World Azerbaijanis.



Asım Şen

Upper New York Region:

Upstate NY, Canada

Dr. Şen got his MS in Applied Engineering from Polytechnic University, NY in 1966 and Ph.D. in Economics from Rutgers

University in 1978. He is currently a tenured professor at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, NY. He is actively involved in Global Awareness Society International, having served as the Program Committee Chair and a Board Member. He has chaired numerous conferences throughout the US and Turkey dealing with, but not limited to, international issues and technology. He has been appointed as ATAA Vice President in 1999.



Hakan İlkin

NorthCentral Region

DE, PA, WV

Mr. İlkin graduated from Boğaziçi University as an Industrial Engineer in 1992. He continued his

education at University of Pittsburgh where he received his Masters degree in Business Administration in 1994. Hakan is a member of Pittsburgh Turkish American Association. During 1994-1995 he acted as Treasurer to PTAA. Currently Hakan is a member of the team working on creating a Turkish Nationality Room at University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning (www.turkish-nationality-room.org.) Mr. İlkin is Founder, President and CEO of Entelechy Health Systems / PeriOptimum, a boutique firm that specializes on continuous improvement of the perioperative services in hospitals.



Erkut Gömülü

Northeastern Region

CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT

Mr. Gömülü received his B.S. degree from Gazi University, Ankara, and his M.A. degree in Economics from Northeastern

University, Boston. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the field of International Political Economy at Northeastern University. Erkut has been serving as the ATAA Vice President for Northeastern Region

since May 2000. He has been the President of the Turkish American Cultural Society of New England (TACS) since 1997. He has organized numerous activities to promote Turkey and the Turkish culture, including one-month long annual Boston Turkish Festival comprising of various academic, cultural and social events since 1996. Erkut also chairs the ATAA Convention Planning Committee. He has received the ATAA Meritorious Service Award in 1999 and has been working at the Information Systems Customer Services Department of Northeastern University. He is also the founder and President of the Turkish American Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Maritime Trade. He lives in Boston with his wife Ferhan Gömülü.



Ufuk Gökçen

Northwest Pacific Region

AK, OR, MT, WA, WY, ID

Mr. Gökçen is an aerospace engineer working for the Boeing Company. He graduated from

Istanbul Technical University (ITU) in 1980 and continued at ITU and ENSAE in Toulouse, France, for his post-graduate degrees. He worked for Alarko, Turkish Airlines, Boeing Canada, Bombardier-De Havilland Division before joining the Boeing Co. He has been a Board member of the Turkish American Cultural Association (TACA) of Washington State since moving to Seattle in 1996. He held the Presidency of the association for a year until his election as Vice President of ATAA's Northwest Pacific Region.



Güney Adak

Southeastern Region

TN, AL, FL, GA

Mr. Adak graduated from Istanbul University's College of Economics. Before coming to America in 1980, he was involved

in the family business of general contracting. After his move Güney held managerial positions in the construction industry. He is a partner at Florida Quality Truss, in the business of wooden roof and floor truss systems. The company has major operations in South Florida, serving from three plant locations, and branched out into International trade. Mr. Adak is currently Assembly of Turkish American Associations' Vice President for the

Southeastern United States and President of the Florida Turkish American Association. He is married with two children..



Çoşkun Çağlar
Southwestern Region

AR, LA, MS, OK, TX

Mr. Çağlar received his MBA in Finance from the University of St. Thomas, and already P.E.as well ass an M.S in Mechanical

Engineering. He is employed at the Bechtel Corporation as a Senior Control Systems Engineer. Mr. Çağlar has been President of ATA-Houston, and continues to serve as a Board member.



Ahmet Toprak
Western Region

AZ, CA, CO, HI, NV, NM

Mr. Toprak is an engineer working in Silicon Valley. He is a graduate from Istanbul Technical University and holds a Masters

Degree in Industrial Engineering from UC Berkeley. He has been active in TAAC since 1976, and has been coordinating Radio programs in the San Francisco bay area since 1982. He is also the Director of Turkish Radio Hour, a program to share Turkish culture news and music with the Bay area residents. This program is put together by the Turkish community for the benefit of the local people of non-Turkish background. He is married with one daughter.

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24th Annual ATAA Convention Program

January 30-31, 2004

Fairmont Hotel, Washington, DC

Friday, January 30, 2004

8:00am-8:45am	Registration
8:45am-9:15am	Welcoming Remarks by Ercüment Kılıç , ATAA President Opening Remarks: <i>H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan</i> , Prime Minister of Turkey <i>H.E. Ali Hasanov</i> , Azerbaijan President's Political Advisory Board
9:15am-10:45am	Ambassadors' Breakfast United States-Turkish Relations Since the War in Iraq <i>Moderator: Lynn Pascoe</i> , State Dept. Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs <i>Speakers: H.E. Eric Edelman</i> , Ambassador of the United States to Turkey <i>H.E. Faruk Loğoğlu</i> , Ambassador of Turkey to the United States <i>Commentators: Oz Bengur</i> , Bengur Bryan & Co., Inc. <i>Dr. George Harris</i> , State Dept. Bureau of Int. and Res., (Ret.) <i>Gen.(Ret.) Veli Küçük</i> <i>Alan Makovsky</i> , Senior Staffer, House Int. Relations Committee <i>Prof. Justin McCarthy</i> , University of Louisville <i>Dr. Ömer Taşpınar</i> , Brookings Institute
11:00am-11:15am	Coffee Break
11:15am-12:45pm	Turkey and the European Union: Challenges and Prospects <i>Moderator: Prof. Sabri Sayarı</i> , Institute of Turkish Studies <i>Panelists: Dr. Uğur Akıncı</i> , Turkish Torque <i>Matt Bryza</i> , United States National Security Council <i>H.E. Tayyibe Gülek</i> , Former State Minister of Turkey <i>H.E. Atilla Karaosmanoğlu</i> , Former Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey <i>John Sitalides</i> , Western Policy Center
1:00pm-2:15pm	Luncheon Growing Gap between Turkey and Developed Countries, and Solutions <i>Keynote Speaker: Prof. T. Nejat Veziroğlu</i> , University of Miami
2:30pm-4:30pm	Aftermath of the Iraqi War: Democracy and Islam <i>Moderator: Gunay Evinch</i> , Saltzman & Evinch <i>Panelists: Prof. Ömer Aksu</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Zekeriya Beyaz</i> , Istanbul University <i>Prof. Justin McCarthy</i> , University of Louisville <i>Prof. Hakan Yavuz</i> , University of Utah

5:00pm-5:30pm	Tea in Turkey: A Cultural History* A presentation by Pelin Aylangan
5:30pm-6:15pm	Dr. Fuad's Visit to the USA in 1923:Early Turkish Immigrants in America* A presentation by Sedat İşçi and Prof. Günseli Sönmez İşçi , Ege University
7:30pm	Ambassador's Reception <i>By invitation only</i>

*(Open to public)

Saturday, January 31, 2004

8:45am-9:00am	Registration
9:00am-10:15am	State of Azerbaijan in the Modern World: Prospects of Development <i>Moderator: Zeyno Baran, Nixon Center</i> <i>Speakers: H.E. Nazim İbrahimov, Azerbaijani State Minister for Azerbaijani people living abroad</i> <i>H.E. Polad Bülbüloğlu, Azerbaijani Minister for Culture</i>
10:15am-10:30am	Coffee Break
10:30am-12:30pm	<i>Panelists: Prof. İlham Akhundov, McMaster University</i> Tomris Azeri, Azerbaijan Society of America Thomas Brady, Staffer, US Senator Brownback Thomas Goltz, Freelance Journalist Beydullah Manafov, Freelance Journalist <i>Dr. Jayhun Mollazade, US-Azerbaijan Council</i>
1:00pm-2:15pm	Luncheon <i>Keynote Speaker: H.E. Hafız Paşayev, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States</i>
2:30pm-5:30pm	Turkish Language: Turkish Spoken in Turkey Common Alphabet for the Turkic World <i>Moderator: Prof. Kemal Silay, Indiana University, Bloomington</i> <i>Panelists: Prof. Rafael Huseynov, M.P. Azerbaijani Parliament</i> <i>Prof. Timur Kocaoğlu, Koç University</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Oktay Sinanoğlu, Author</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Turan Yazgan, Turkish World Foundation</i>
7:30pm-1:00am	ATAA Annual Awards Banquet Zulfiya, Azerbaijani Singer Hazal, Turkish Singer Tünzala, Azerbaijani Singer Azerbaijan State Dance Ensemble and Orchestra Houston Turkish Folk Dancers Washington Turkish Folk Dancers <i>(Black Tie Optional)</i>



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Keynote Speakers

H.E. Hafiz M. Pashayev

Hafiz Pashayev is the first ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States. He arrived in Washington, D.C., in February 1993, presented his credentials to President Clinton on April 14.

Since assuming his post, Ambassador Pashayev has concentrated mainly on the imperative necessity to develop, broaden, and enhance bilateral US-Azerbaijan relations. This relationship is proving all-around fruitful, especially in the economic field, with Azerbaijan and the US companies engaged into active cooperation in the Caspian energy development. Interaction on the political issues is also becoming more and more intensive, including wide range of security and other matters.

During the initial period of bilateral relations the task of educating American public and academic circles figured prominently in the Ambassador's job description. Educating American lawmakers presented special challenge in the context of the ongoing Armenia – Azerbaijan conflict. The Ambassador has done much to secure foreign assistance in overcoming humanitarian crisis in Azerbaijan, with its 1 million refugees and the displaced, many of whom still have no housing, adequate food or clothing.

Ambassador Pashayev has been instrumental in presenting in the US Azerbaijan's history, culture, and arts, as well as the nation's significant achievements on the path of reforms aimed at establishing free market economy in a democratic society under a rule of law.

In his capacity of Azerbaijan's non-resident Ambassador to Canada (since December 3, 1998) and Mexico (since June 21, 1999), as well as of Ambassador – Permanent Observer to the OAS since April 5, 2001, Dr. Pashayev has done his best to promote Azerbaijan's economic, political, and cultural ties with the countries of North and South America.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Pashayev served as director of the Metal Physics Laboratory in the Institute of Physics at the Azerbaijani Academy of Sciences in Baku and taught physics at Baku State University.

In 1984 he was named full professor at the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan. He received his Ph.D. in theoretical physics in 1971, having pursued post-graduate studies at the Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy in Moscow. From 1975 to 1976, he undertook a one-year research at the University of California at Irvine. He graduated from Baku State University in 1963 with a degree in physics. He is the author of more than 120 books and articles, including those published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Boston Globe*, etc.

Dr. Pashayev is married. Mrs. Rena Pashayev is a scholar and professor of Arabic literature and history. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Dr. Nejat Veziroğlu

Dr. Veziroğlu graduated from the City and Guilds College, the Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, with degrees in Mechanical Engineering (A.C.G.I., B.Sc.), Advanced Studies in Engineering (D.I.C.) and Heat Transfer (Ph.D.).

In 1962, after serving in some Turkish government agencies and then heading a private company, he joined the University of Miami Engineering Faculty. In 1965, he became the Director of Graduate Studies, Mechanical Engineering, and two years later initiated the first Ph.D. Program in the School of Engineering and Architecture. He served as Chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, 1971 through 1975, and was the Associate Dean for Research of the School of Engineering and Architecture, 1975 through 1979. At present, he is the director of the Clean Energy Research

Keynote Speakers

Institute at the University of Miami, which acts as the focal point of energy and environment related research and information dissemination activities.

Dr. Veziroğlu teaches Heat Transfer, Mass Transfer, Hydrogen Energy and Nuclear Engineering. He has published some 200 scientific reports and papers, and is the editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Hydrogen Energy and International Journal of Energy Environment Economics. He has been an invited lecturer and/or consultant on energy research and education to many countries, including U.S.S.R, Republic of China, India, Pakistan, Japan, Canada, Germany, England, France, Italy, Switzerland, Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait,

the Philippines, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela and Colombia.

In recognition of the high quality of his research, Dr. Veziroglu has been the recipient of several international awards. He was presented the Turkish Presidential Science Award in 1974, made an Honorary Professor in Xian Jiatong University of China in 1981, and awarded the I. V. Kurchatov Medal by the Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy of U.S.S.R in 1982 and Energy for Mankind Award by the Global Energy Society in 1986.

United States-Azerbaijan Council

The United States-Azerbaijan Council (USAC) was founded as a non-partisan, non-governmental organization (NGO) in October 1994. The US-Azerbaijan Council's founders included a number of prominent diplomats, academics and businesspersons from the United States. The USAC was one of the first organizations founded and dedicated to improving ties between the US and Azerbaijan for the betterment of understanding between our two nations. Since 1994, the USAC has worked on improving political, economic, cultural and academic ties between the US and Azerbaijan

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economy, trade and investment regime
of the Caspian and Caucasus regions.*

Speakers & Moderators

Uğur Akıncı

Dr. Akıncı has been a writer, journalist and editor since the mid-1980s. He has edited the ATAA publication Turkish Times between 1989-1994, and 1998-2003. He also helped create ATAA's new flagship publication Turkish World and edited its first issue.

Born and raised in Turkey, Akıncı first arrived in the United States in 1975 as a Sociology transfer student from Middle East Technical University of Ankara and received his B.A. from University of Texas at Austin. This was followed by an M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from Brown University. After a two-year posting at the NATO Hqs. in Izmir, Turkey as a Senior Translator, Akıncı returned to the United States and settled in the Washington D.C. area.

Between 1994-98, Akıncı worked as a journalist in Washington D.C., covering the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Congress for the Turkish Daily News. Since 1998 he has worked full-time as an award-winning technical writer for two different Fortune 100 corporations. He is currently also a columnist for *www.turkishpress.com*, writing news analyses on the recent developments in Turkey and the Turkish-US relations.

Uğur is married to Dr. Gülden Akıncı. The couple, who have celebrated their 30th anniversary in 2003, are the proud parents of Ersin Akıncı. “

Ilham S. Akhundov

Ilham S. Akhundov received his B.A. from Azerbaijan State University in 1978. He continued his education at St. Petersburg University where he received his Master degree in Mathematics in 1981 and Ph.D. in Mathematics in 1987. He is currently an Assistant Professor at McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada. Prior to that he was an Associate Professor at Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey and a Fulbright Visiting Professor at Texas A&M University.

Mr. Ilham Akhundov received several international awards and grants. He is the author of numerous

publications and books. He is a member of American Mathematical Society; Azerbaijan Mathematical Society; and the Fulbright Association. He is actively involved in the life of Azerbaijani Diaspora, and is the current president of Canada Azerbaijan Partnership.

He is married and has two children.

Pelin Aylangan

Pelin Aylangan was born in Ankara, Turkey, and has lived most of her life in the United States. She has a B.A. degree in Economics from the University of Rochester and an M.B.A in Information Systems from the William E. Simon School of Business Administration. She has worked as a human resources professional and systems analyst in the public and commercial sectors. Currently, she is project manager and business developer for AMS, a top 20 global IT and consulting firm in Fairfax, Virginia.

Ms. Aylangan has been active in Turkish-American associations for most of her adult life. She was on the Board of the Turkish Society of Rochester in Upstate New York for many years, and was the first female elected to the position of Vice-President. Since 1998, Ms. Aylangan has been a board member and the Membership Director for the American-Turkish Association of Washington DC (ATA-DC). Her ongoing efforts to promote Turkey and Turkish culture to the non-Turkish community include her planned book on the topic of tea in Turkey. She was featured in the Turkish daily Sabah, recently organized and presented a program on the topic with the Smithsonian Associates, and was quoted in the December issue of the National Geographic.

Tomris Azeri

Tomris Azeri works at a family business as a finance manager. She graduated from the Computer Programming Institute of Paterson NJ and attended and Montclair State College. Tomris has served ATAA as Regional VP, and is currently the President of Azerbaijan Society of America. She is also serving on the Coordination Council of the World Azerbaijanis.

Zeyno Baran

Zeyno Baran is Director of International Security and Energy Programs at the Nixon Center. She joined the Center in January 2003 and established the Eurasia and Turkey Projects to help American policy makers and opinion shapers better understand the region's political, economic and social dynamics. Previously Ms. Baran was Director of the Caucasus Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). In 1998, she established the Georgia Forum at CSIS, at the time the only such program in the United States that focused exclusively on this strategic country and its relations with the U.S. and Russia.

Ms. Baran has also worked on Caspian oil and gas pipeline projects since 1996, and frequently travels to the region. In recognition of her prominent contribution to the development of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline and the South Caucasus gas pipeline projects, in May 2003 she was awarded with the Order of Honor by former Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze.

In 2001 she was selected as a member of a Greek-Turkish working group striving to improve bilateral relations. While she was born in Turkey, Ms. Baran spent a significant part of her childhood growing up in Greece, giving her a unique perspective on bilateral issues.

Ms. Baran received her M.A. in international economic development and her B.A. in political science from Stanford University. Her work on the compatibility of Islam and democracy received the Firestone Medal for Stanford's most outstanding political science/international relations honors thesis in 1996.

Osman Bengür

Osman Bengür was born in Montgomery County, Maryland 1949. Following his graduation from Princeton in 1971 where he received his B.A. in English, he was appointed as Special Assistant to the Commissioner of the Department of Youth Services in Massachusetts. His accomplishments in working with disadvantaged children lead to his role in helping reform foster care in the Department of Children and

Family Services in Illinois. In 1975, he went on to earn a graduate degree in Criminology from University of Cambridge in England. In 1978 Mr. Bengür participated in then Attorney General Joseph Brennan's successful campaign for Governor. In 1979, Oz joined Gov. Brennan's staff as a Special Assistant and liaison to the state Departments of Corrections and Business Regulation and state housing finance authority. In 1980, he was elected a delegate to the Democratic National. He returned to Baltimore in 1983 to join Alex Brown & Sons (now Deutsche Bank), serving as a successful investment banker. In this position, he became an expert in local and state finances. In 1991, he co-founded Bengur Bryan & Co., a firm that provides financial advice to mid-sized companies for mergers, acquisitions, and raising capital. In 2002 Oz Bengür ran for Congress in Maryland's 2nd district. He is married with three children.

Zekeriya Beyaz

Prof. Dr. Beyaz was born in Gaziantep, Turkey in 1938. He completed his elementary and secondary education in Gaziantep and Kahramanmaraş, Turkey. He received private religious education for 12 years. Graduated from Istanbul Higher Islamic Institute in 1972. He was also appointed to the President position in Student Federation of Islamic Institutes. He founded Istanbul Islam Institute's Development Association and Islamic Institute Foundation. Prof. Beyaz was imam and mufti for State Authority for Religious Affairs. After completing his master's degree we received his PhD in 1999. He was the Dean of School of Religious Studies in Marmara University starting in year 2000. After completing regular term in this post he went back to his department to teaching position. He is still a professor in Istanbul University. He has many published books and articles.

Thomas Brady

Thomas Brady is the Legislative Assistant at the Office of Senator Sam Brownback (KS). Since 2001, Mr. Brady has served as foreign policy legislative assistant to Senator Sam Brownback (KS). Mr. Brady staffs the Congressional Silk Road Caucus the focused

on U.S. relations with and policy toward the South Caucasus and Central Asia. He has traveled to Azerbaijan and Turkey as a member of staff delegations focused on U.S. relations with those two countries. Prior to joining Senator Brownback's staff he worked on the majority staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee from 1998-2001.

Matthew J. Bryza

Matthew J. Bryza has served as the National Security Council staff's Director for Europe and Eurasia since April 2001. In this capacity, Mr. Bryza is responsible for coordinating U.S. policy Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Caspian energy.

Mr. Bryza joined the United States Foreign Service in August 1988. His first tour was in Poland in 1989-1991 at the U.S. Consulate in Poznan and the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, where he covered the "Solidarity" movement, reform of Poland's security services, and regional politics. He subsequently worked on European and Russian affairs at the State Department during 1991-1995. Mr. Bryza served at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow during 1995-1997, first as special assistant to Ambassador Thomas Pickering, then as a political officer covering the Russian Duma, the Communist Party, and the Republic of Dagestan in the North Caucasus. During 1997-1998, Mr. Bryza was Special Advisor to Ambassador Richard Morningstar, coordinating U.S. Government assistance programs on economic reform in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Mr. Bryza then served as the deputy to the Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State on Caspian Basin Energy Diplomacy from July 1998 to March 2001. In this capacity, Mr. Bryza coordinated the U.S. Government's inter-agency effort to develop a network of oil and gas pipelines in the Caspian region.

Mr. Bryza graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in international relations. He received his master's degree in the same field from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He is fluent in Russian and Polish, and also speaks German and Spanish.

Tayyibe Gülek-Domaç

Tayyibe Gülek-Domaç served as a Member of Parliament in the 21st term of the Turkish Grand National Assembly representing the constituency of Adana from 1999 to 2002. (Her chief areas of interest are agricultural policy, economics and foreign relations.) During her term in Office, she was a member of the Turkish Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe where she was Vice Chair of the Committee on Human Rights, and a member of the Committee on Equality between Men and Women. She served as the Minister of State Responsible for Cyprus in 2002. Prior to her term in office, she worked at the Prime Ministry as Advisor to the Chief Coordinator for Economic Policy of the Prime Minister.

She received her B.A. in Economics with honors from Harvard University in 1991 and her Master's Degree with honors from the London School of Economics. She speaks English and French fluently and has a working knowledge of Spanish.

Ambassador Eric Edelman

Ambassador Eric Edelman has been the United States' ambassador to the Republic of Turkey since July 2003. From February 2001 to June 2003, he was Principal Deputy Assistant to the Vice President for National Security Affairs. Prior to being assigned to the Office of the Vice President, he was Ambassador to the Republic of Finland, 1998-2001. From June 1996 to July 1998, he served as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of State. Mr. Edelman was Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy, Prague, Czech Republic, from June 1994 to June 1996.

From April 1993 to July 1993, he served as Deputy to the Ambassador-at-Large and Special Advisor to the Secretary of State on the New Independent States. Mr. Edelman's areas of responsibility were defense, security, and space issues. Mr. Edelman served as Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Soviet and East European Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) from April 1990 to April 1993.

From April 1989 to March 1990, he was Special Assistant (European Affairs) to the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. Mr. Edelman served at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow 1987-89, where he was head of the external political section. He had responsibility for Soviet policies in the third world in the Office of Soviet Affairs at the Department of State from 1984 to 1986.

Previously, Mr. Edelman served as Special Assistant to Secretary of State George P. Shultz, 1982-84; a staff officer on the Secretariat Staff, 1982; a watch officer in the State Department Operations Center 1981-82; and a member of the U.S. Middle East Delegation to the West Bank/Gaza Autonomy Talks Delegations, 1980-81.

A career Foreign Service Officer, Mr. Edelman entered the Senior Foreign Service in 1992. He is a recipient of the Secretary of Defense's award for Distinguished Civilian Service (1993) and the State Department's Superior Honor Award (1990 and 1996).

Mr. Edelman received a B.A. in History and Government from Cornell University in 1972, and a Ph.D. in U.S. Diplomatic History from Yale University in 1981.

Günay Evinch (Övünç)

Günay Evinch received his B.A. in Development Economics and Political Science - Public Service from University of California, Davis, in 1986, and Juris Doctor Degree from Washington & Lee University, Virginia. During 1991-1993 he was a U.S. Fulbright Scholar and Sasakawa Scholar in human rights, counter-insurgency, anti-terrorism, and Armenian allegation of genocide. Since 1993 he is an Attorney at Saltzman & Evinch. He served as a Criminal Prosecution, San Francisco District Attorney; Criminal Defense and Sacramento Federal Public Defender.

Günay Evinch is a second generation Turkish-American. He was ATAA's Secretary General during 1998-2000. He serves private and public entities, such as the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkish

General Staff, and several Turkish American NGOs, including the American Turkish Veterans Association (ATVA), Turkish Recreational and Cultural Organization (TURCO), Atatürk Society of America (ASA), ARI Foundation, and Anatolia Soccer Club.

Thomas Goltz

Thomas Goltz graduated with an M.A. in Middle Eastern studies from New York University in 1983, with a focus on Arabic and Turkish. For the past decade he was a writer and videographer who specializes in the Caucasus area of the former Soviet Union (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and Chechnya). His employers have ranged from the Washington Post and the New York Times, US News and World Report, Forbes Electronic Mailbox, Businessweek and The Nation. He also collaborates with the LA Times, National Geographic News Service, Pacific News Service, the London Sunday Times and other publications.

Mr. Goltz has produced and filmed several documentary pieces for BBC TV (on Chechnya and Abkhazia) and acted as a consultant or cameraman for other television stations, such as ABC Nightline and CBS 60 Minutes, appearing on the latter's program on Caspian Oil in 1999. His first film on Chechnya took second in the annual (London) Rory Peck Awards in 1996.

He has also written a number of scholarly articles on developments in the Caucasus region for Foreign Policy, The National Interest and The Washington Quarterly. His book on Azerbaijan—*Azerbaijan Diary: A Rogue Reporter's Adventures in an Oil-rich, War-torn, Post-Soviet Republic* (M.E. Sharpe, 1998)—has been declared essential reading on the entire post-Soviet region by reviewers as diverse as the Wall Street Journal and Brill's Content and is now used as a classroom text in various American universities.

He lectures widely on a self-created circuit that includes visits to such institutions as Berkeley, Princeton, Harvard, Columbia and other leading

universities, as well as regional chapters of the World Affairs Council and the American Committees on Foreign Relations.

George S. Harris

George S. Harris received his Ph.D. in History of the Middle East from Harvard University in 1957. He then served at the American Embassy in Ankara until 1962, when he returned to Washington for various assignments dealing with the Middle East. In 1977 he became Director of Analysis for Western Europe in INR in the Department of State, and in 1979 he was made Director of Analysis for Near East and South Asia, a post which he occupied until his retirement from the Department of State at the end of December 1995. In addition to his government career, he was a Professorial Lecturer at the School for Advanced International Studies of The Johns Hopkins University from 1968 to 1981 and he gave occasional courses at The George Washington University. He has written many articles and a number of books on Turkey including *The Origins of Communism in Turkey* (1967), *Troubled Alliance: Turkish American problems in Historical Perspective* (1972), *Turkey: Copping with Crisis* (1985), and *The Communists and the Kadro Movement: Shaping Ideology in Ataturk's Turkey* (2002).

Ali Hasanov

Ali Hasanov graduated from the department of history of Baku State University in 1985 and later from Moscow State University in 1988. He became the postgraduate student of the same university and defended a thesis in 1992. During 1992-1995, he worked at New Azerbaijan Party as the head of department. Since 1995 he has worked at President Administration as the head of social-political department.

Mr. Hasanov is the doctor of historic sciences, professor, and author of seven books and of more than hundred scientific works. He is the chief of the "Foreign Policy and International Relations" chair in the Academy of Public Administration under the

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and a member of the board of the New Azerbaijan Party.

He is married and has two children.

Rafael Huseynov

Rafael Huseynov was born in 1954 in Kurdemir. He entered Baku State University at chair of "Persian philology" of the Oriental Studies Department in 1971. After graduating in 1976, he attended the Institute of Philosophy and Law of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Azerbaijan and become the postgraduate student of the Institute of "People of Middle East." He defended a thesis and got the degree of scientist in 1980. He was a correspondent of "Voice of America" radio of USA in Azerbaijan between from 1993 to 2000. During 1987-1989 he continued his pedagogical activity at the Azerbaijan State University teaching Persian literature, and taught "History of Culture" at Azerbaijan State Conservatory after Uzeyir Hacibeyov in 1990-1991. He prepared special programs about Azerbaijan literature, Azerbaijan culture and taught this subjects at "Xazar" University in 1995. He was a chief of the Azerbaijan Literature Museum of Academy of Sciences of Republic of Azerbaijan after Nizami Genjevi in 2003.

Rafael Huseynov is the author of more than 60 scientific investigations. Also in periodical printing he has published about 100 materials about issues concerning Azerbaijan literature. For the last 20 years he is the host on weekly show at the State Radio "Evening meetings." He is the author of movies about Huseyn Javid, poets A. Bakir and H. Huseynov. He has been awarded by the Academy of Sciences, Azerbaijan University and Writers Union for his book dedicated to Huseyn Cavid.

Nazim İbrahimov

Nazim İbrahimov graduated from Azerbaijan Polytechnic Institute after the name of Ch. Ildirim in Baku, and earned specialty of engineer-mechanic over the machine building.

In 1997-2000 he worked as an Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Azerbaijan Republic in Ukraine. In 2000-2002 he was a member of the Milli Mejlis (National Parliament) of Azerbaijan Republic and was the substitute member of the Permanent Delegation of PACE.

Since August 2002, he has been the Chairman of the State Committee of Azerbaijan Republic on Affairs with Azerbaijanians Living in Foreign Countries.

Sedat İşçi

Sedat İşçi, is a senior lecturer in English at Ege University. He specializes on British and American culture and cultural studies theories. He conducted research on cultural aspects of Turkish-American relations and foundations of American foreign policy and lectured on Turkish culture in the U.S. in 1999-2000. He is the Project and Research Director of The First Turkish Immigrants in America: 1860-1924 project and Coordinator of Turkish-Armenian Relations Studies Group.

Günseli Sönmez İşçi

Günseli Sönmez İşçi is a professor of English in the Department of English at Ege University. She specializes and publishes on Shakespeare and critical theories. She is the author of *Macbeth from New Criticism to New Historicism* (2001). With a Fulbright senior award she conducted research and taught at Temple University, Philadelphia, U.S.A. in 1999-2000. She is one of the initiators and organizers of an Annual International Cultural Studies Symposium held at Ege University. Currently she is the Head of the English Department at Ege University. She is the founder and the Director of Women's Studies Graduate Program at the Social Sciences Institute of Ege University. She is also Project Editor of The First Turkish Immigrants in America project.

Attila Karaosmanoğlu

Dr. Attila Karaosmanoğlu is an economist by profession. He was educated at the University of Ankara and Istanbul. He was a visiting scholar at Harvard and Exchange Faculty. He is a member of NYU's Faculty.

He also attended Ankara and Middle East Technical Universities between 1954-63. In his professional life, he was Head of the Economic Planning Department of the State Planning Org. of Turkey, Adviser to the Federation of Turkish Trade Unions, Consultant to the Turkish Scientific and Tech. Research Council, Senior Consultant Directorate for Scientific Affairs OECD, an Economist at the World Bank, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey in 1971 in charge of Economic Affairs and Chairman of the High Planning Council. He has also been the World Bank's Chief Economist for European, Middle East, and North Africa Region, Director of Europe, Middle East and North Africa Region Country Programs, Vice President East Asia and Pacific Regions, Vice President of the Asia Region and between 1991-1994 he was appointed as the Managing Director of the World Bank. Presently he is a Board Member of the Turkish Scientific and Technical. Research Council. His Publications include *Towards Full Employment and Price Stability* (OECD Pub. with others) 1977, *Poverty and Prosperity- The two Realities of Asian Development* (World Bank Pub.) 1989; *Diversity and Consensus- The Emergence of an Asian Development Paradigm* (World Bank Pub) 1991, *21. Yüz Yılda Planlama* (State Planning Org. of Turkey) 2000. *Türkiyede YenidenYapılanma ile ilgili Sorunlar* (Turkish Acad. of Sciences Pub.) 2002) and several articles.

Ercüment Kılıç

Mr. Kılıç was born in 1958 in Ankara. He is a graduate of UT-Austin with a BS in Economics and International Politics. He has served numerous times as President of TURANT and as VP of ATAA. Among his accomplishments is his involvement and arrangement of Congressman Jim Moody's trip as the first US Congressman in history to visit Azerbaijan. Due to his formal training in performing arts, he has been a cultural ambassador for Turkey since 1977. He has been invited by various organizations to do seminars and workshops on Turkic cultures in all 50 states in the US and in England, Germany, Holland, Switzerland, the Republic of China, Hong Kong, and Japan.

Timur Kocaoglu

Timur Kocaoglu, B.A. (1971) from Istanbul University; M.A. (1976) & Ph.D (1982) from Columbia University (New York). Having worked as a research analyst and a Program Supervisor at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (1977-1994 in Munich, Germany) and as a faculty member at Marmara University (1985-1988, in Istanbul), Dr. Kocaoglu has been teaching Turkic languages, history of the Turkic peoples, and Modern Central Asia & Azerbaijan at Koc University in Istanbul since 1994.

He has published numerous articles on the language, literature, cultural history, and current political affairs of the Turkic peoples in Caucasus, Crimea, Volga-Ural region, Central Asia, Siberia, East Turkistan (China) and Afghanistan. His publications include the following books: *Turkish World Phrase Guide for Travelers* (Istanbul: Türk Dünyası Araştırmaları Vakfı, 1992); *Reform Movements and Revolutions in Turkistan: 1900-1924* (Haarlem, Netherlands: SOTA, 2001). Currently he is working on a book on the republics of Central Asia & Azerbaijan to be published by Michigan State University.

Veli Küçük

He was born in 1944 in a Türkmen village of Bilecik Province. He completed the primary school in his village and middle school in Gölpazarı. He continued on to Kuleli Military High School 1959, where he graduated in 1963.

After graduating from the Military College in 1965, he served as an officer and then commander. His 35 year career encompassed many duty stations, among them Edirne, Van, Eskişehir, Ağrı and Kocaeli Province Gendarmerie Regiment Commanders.

He was promoted to Staff General in 1996. He completed the Giresun Region Regiment and commanded the troops there for two years. Later, while the Commander of Çanakkale Brigade, he moved the Brigade to Bilecik Province. He began his military

service in 1966 as a Lieutenant and retired in 2000 as a General.

He is married with a daughter and a grandson. He continues to work, now in the private sector as a manager. In addition to his work, he volunteers for the Foundation for Research on Turkish World. His ideal is “to serve his people in order to enable the eminent Turkish Nation to be a single power and unionized all over the world.”

Justin McCarthy

Justin McCarthy received a Ph.D. in Near Eastern history from UCLA in 1978 and a Certificate in Demography from Princeton University in 1980. He is presently Distinguished Professor of Arts and Sciences at the University of Louisville, where he also served as Chairman of the Department of History from 1986 to 1992. He has been a Visiting Fellow at Princeton University, the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, and Boğaziçi University in İstanbul. From 1967 to 1969 he taught at Middle East Technical University in Ankara as a US Peace Corps Volunteer. Professor McCarthy specializes in the social and demographic history of the modern Middle East. His books include *Muslims and Minorities*, a study of population of Ottoman Anatolia in the period of World War I, *Death and Exile*, on the expulsion and mortality of the Muslims of the Balkans, Caucasus, Crimea, and Anatolia, *The Population of Palestine*, and a textbook, *The Ottoman Turks*. He has written a number of articles on Middle Eastern, Turkish, and Ottoman topics. He has also contributed to or has written teachers' manuals. He frequently addresses academic and public audiences in the United States, Europe, and Middle East. Professor McCarthy has been voted a Corresponding Member of the Turkish Historical Association. He has received the Chairman's Education Award from the Turkish-American Friendship Council and awards from Turkish-American organizations. In 1985 he received an honorary doctorate from Boğaziçi University. He has held a Senior Research Fellowship from the National Needs Postdoctoral Fellowship from the

National Science Foundation, a Fulbright-Hays fellowship, and other fellowships and grants.

Jayhun Mollazade

Jayhun Mollazade, Ph.D. Graduated from Baku University' School of Middle Eastern Studies in 1983. He joined the Institute of Philosophy and Law, a think tank in Baku under the academy of science where he completed his Ph.D. in Arabic political philosophy. In 1992, he was sent to Washington DC to build the Embassy of Azerbaijan and served as chargee d'affaires until 1993. In 1994 he moved into the private sector and advised the energy groups on their strategy in the Caspian region through his own company J.N.M. Inc., and also as senior associate at Cambridge Energy Research Associates covering the Caspian region. In 1994 he established the US-Azerbaijan Council, business league and Caspian crossroads magazine to serve as the source of information on the region (www.usazerbajancouncil.org).

Jayhun Mollazade lectures in major American universities and think tanks in DC on business, politics and geopolitics of the Middle East and Caspian region. He is fluent in English, Azeri, Russian, Turkish and Arabic. On numerous times he appeared on Voice of America, Radio Liberty, BBC, and NPR.

B. Lynn Pascoe

B. Lynn Pascoe took up his duties as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs on September 4, 2001. His areas of responsibility include countries in the Eastern Mediterranean, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.

A Career Minister in the Senior Foreign Service, Ambassador Pascoe served most recently as American Ambassador in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He earlier served as the U.S. Special Negotiator for Nagorno-Karabakh and Regional Conflicts and the U.S. Co-Chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) Minsk Group.

From 1993 to 1996, Mr. Pascoe was the Director of the American Institute in Taiwan, the organization that carries out cultural, commercial and other rela-

tions between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan. He also has served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the East Asian and Pacific Bureau of the State Department, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Department of State, and Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of State.

In over three decades in the Foreign Service, he has held positions on the Soviet and China desks, and has been posted to Moscow, Hong Kong and Bangkok, as well as to Beijing twice, Taipei and Kuala Lumpur. He speaks Mandarin Chinese.

Born in Missouri in 1943, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Kansas and his Master of Arts from Columbia University. He has also attended the U.S. National War College and the State Department's Senior Seminar.

Ambassador Pascoe and his wife have two grown daughters.

Sabri Sayarı

Dr. Sabri Sayarı is the Executive Director of the Institute of Turkish Studies (ITS), a private, non-profit educational institution that promotes scholarly research on Turkey in American universities. He also teaches at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service where ITS is located.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Sayarı was a Senior Staff Member at the National Academy of Science's National Research Council (1992-1994), Consultant at RAND (1985-92), and Professor of Political Science at Boğaziçi University in İstanbul, Turkey (1974-1984).

Dr. Sayarı holds a B.A. and Ph.D. degrees in economics and political science, respectively, from Columbia University. He has taught at Rutgers University, and held visiting appointments at several institutions including Columbia University, the University of California, Irvine, and Aarhus University in Denmark.

Dr. Sayarı has published extensively on Turkish politics and foreign policy. His recent publications include *Turkey's New World: Changing Dynamics in Turkish Foreign Policy*, co-editor with Alan Makovsky (2000); *Politics, Parties and Elections in Turkey*, co-editor with Yılmaz Esmer (2002); and *Political Leaders and Democracy in Turkey*, co-editor with Metin Heper (2002).

Oktay Sinanoğlu

Prof. Sinanoğlu graduated from Ankara TED College in Turkey in 1953.

He received his B.A. from UCLA, Berkeley in 1956 and his Master's degree from MIT in 1957. Prof. Sinanoğlu received Alfred Sloan Prize. He received his PhD in Chemistry from Berkeley in 1959. He was the youngest college professor in Yale in 1962 when he was 26 years old. He was appointed to Professor position in Middle East Technical Institute of Turkey in 1962 and in Yale in 1964.

Prof. Sinanoğlu won Germany's Alexander von Humboldt award in 1973.

He received many other awards including Japanese Scientists Award, TUBITAK Science Award, ILESAM Meritorious Service Award, TURKSAV's Service to Turkish World Award and Uğur Mumcu Science Award. He has more than 250 articles and books some translated to world languages. He was nominated to NOBEL prize twice.

John Sitalides

John Sitalides is the Executive Director of the Western Policy Center, a public policy organization promoting U.S. geostrategic interests and Western institutions in southeastern Europe, emphasizing Greek-Turkish security cooperation and Balkan political and economic integration into Western and international frameworks.

Mr. Sitalides founded the Center in Washington, D.C. in 1998, and directs all aspects of strategic planning, policy analysis, public affairs programming, publications, government and corporate relations, financial

development, and media communications at the Center.

Mr. Sitalides has twice been awarded by the Department of State for his expertise on the American Foreign Policy Process, and has testified before Congress on U.S. foreign policy in the eastern Mediterranean. In September 2003, he was appointed to the Department of Commerce Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Advisory Council.

Mr. Sitalides is a frequent commentator in leading U.S. and international broadcast and print media, and a regular lecturer on international relations at the National Defense University, the Foreign Service Institute, and the National Foreign Affairs Training Center.

He received his Master's Degree in International and Public Affairs at Columbia University in 1986, with specialization in International Security Policy, International Political Economy, and Western European Affairs, and his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Queens College in 1983.

From 1993 to 1997, Mr. Sitalides worked on federal affairs strategies in the private sector in Sacramento, California. From 1985 to 1993, he served as Deputy Press Secretary and Special Assistant for Communications and Legislative Affairs to former U.S. Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato (R-NY).

He held senior advisory positions in Senator D'Amato's successful 1986 and 1992 re-election campaigns, and in 1988 managed the successful election campaign of New York State Senator Serphin Maltese (R-Queens).

Professor Kemal Silay

Professor Kemal Silay was born in 1964 in Ankara, Turkey. He received his B.A. in Turkish Language and Literature from Department of Turkology, Ankara University and M.A. in Turkish Studies, from Department of Uralic & Altaic Studies of Indiana University. In 1993 he received his Ph.D. from Indiana University. Currently he is the Director of Turkish Studies

Program at Indiana University and an Ottoman and Modern Turkish Studies Chair Professor.

Among his numerous publications are: “The Book of Handsome Ones; Fazil-i Enderuni’s Hubanname” (Forthcoming, Harvard University: Sources of Oriental Languages and Literature Series, 2004), “Ahmedi’s History of the Kings of the Ottoman Lineage and Their Holy Raids against the Infidels” (Forthcoming, Harvard University: Sources of Oriental Languages and Literature Series, 2004) “Turkish Folklore and Oral Literature: Selected Essays of İlhan Başgöz” (Bloomington, 1999); “Singing His Words: Ottoman Women Poets and the Power of Patriarchy in Women in the Ottoman Empire”; “Middle Eastern Women in the Early Modern Era, Edited by Madeline Zilfi (1997)”; “Turkish Folklore and Oral Literature: Selected Essays of İlhan Başgöz” (Bloomington, 1999), “An Anthology of Turkish Literature” (Bloomington, 1996) and “Nedim and the Poetics of the Ottoman Court: Medieval Inheritance and the Need for Change” (Bloomington, 1994).

Ömer Taşpınar

Ömer Taşpınar is a Research Fellow in Foreign Policy Studies at the Brookings Institution, and he is the Co-Director of the Brookings Project on Turkey. He is an expert in European politics, Turkey, Middle East, and international political economy. His current projects include U.S. policy towards the Islamic world, and Turkish domestic and foreign policy.

Mr. Taşpınar has a B.A. from Middle East Technical University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. His publications include: “An Uneven Fit? The ‘Turkish Model’ in the Arab World”, “Promoting Educational and Economic Opportunity in the Islamic World”, and Europe’s Muslim Street.”

Mr. Taşpınar speaks French, Italian, and Turkish.

Hakan Yavuz

Mr. Hakan Yavuz is an associate professor of political science at the University of Utah. His current projects focus on transnational ethnic and religious networks

in Europe and Turkey; Turkish and Kurdish nationalism; and ethno-religious conflict management.

Mr. Yavuz received his earlier graduation with B.A. from Siyasal Bilgiler Fakültesi in Ankara, Turkey. He received his M.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and spent a semester at the Hebrew University, Israel (1990) and received his Ph.D. from University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1998 in political science. His books include *Islamic Political Identity in Turkey* (Oxford University Press, 2003); with John Esposito, *Turkish Islam and the Secular State: The Gülen Movement* (Syracuse University Press, 2003).

Mr. Yavuz also carried out an extensive fieldwork in Fergana Valley, Uzbekistan to examine the relationship between Islam and nationalism and the preservation and dissemination of Islamic knowledge under socialism. He is an author of more than 30 articles on Islam, nationalism, Kurdish question, and modern Turkish politics. He published in *Comparative Politics*, *Critique*, *SAIS Review*, *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, *Central Asian Survey*, *Journal of Islamic Studies*, and *Journal of Palestine Studies*.

Some of his articles are translated into Arabic and Bosnian from English. He is a regular contributor to several Turkish newspapers and magazines and an editorial member of *Critique*, and *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*.

Turan Yazgan

Prof. Dr. Turan Yazgan was born in 1938 in Egridir, Isparta. He successfully completed Kastamonu High School in 1955. His education continued at Istanbul University, where he received a degree in economics in 1959.

Mr. Yazgan began his career at the Ministry of Public Works and Settlement Directorate of Planning, first as an Economist then as the “Regional Planner” for five years.

He left the Ministry in 1963, to continue his education in Italy. His graduate work focused on the Regional Development of Southern Italy. He submitted his dissertation on “Urbanization of Turkish Workforce and its Demo-

graphic and Socio-economic Characteristics”. He became an associate professor with his research on “Social Security and Revenue Distribution”.

During 1977 and 1978, Mr. Yazgan served as the Development Coordinator of South-East Anatolian Project. He presented the project on the Development of South Anatolian Region to the State Department’s Reform Agriculture Division.

In 1979, he became a full-time professor at Istanbul University Business Administration and Economics Department, where he also served on the University Board of Directors.

In 2000, Mr Yazgan resigned his university posts to become President of “Turkish World Research Foundation.” By founding the Voices from Turkish World Chorus, he helped introduce Turkish music to

the world. He hosted many Turkish artists from throughout the diaspora and held many art exhibits and plays featuring these artists. He initiated the Turkish World Children’s Festival and also the Turkish Women’s Congress. He has published almost 100 magazines about Turkish World. He has founded high schools and colleges taught in the languages of Turkic Republics.

He has been awarded more than 200 awards for his contribution to Turkish World. He has received the title of Honorary Professor from many universities in Turkey.

Mr. Yazgan is married and a father of three sons and grandfather of two.

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2004 ATAA Awards

- The strength of ATAA comes from individuals and organizations that embody the values, mission and goals of the Assembly. Each year during its annual convention, the Assembly honors such individuals and organizations that have been nominated by the Turkish American community and stand out in community service, their respective professions and serve as role models for us all. We are honored to announce the recipients of the 2004 ATAA Awards.*
- **Distinguished Service Award**
• Erhan Üsküp - Dr. Uğur Akıncı - Ufuk Gökçen
 - **Meritorious Service Award**
• Hülya Polat - Lincoln McCurdy
 - **President's Special Award**
• Mehmet Mustafaoğlu - Dr. Jaybun Mollazade - Tarhan Danışman
 - **American Friend of Turkey Award**
• Dr. Kenji Seto - Prof. John Grabowski & Mrs. Diane Grabowski
• Prof. Michael Williams - Prof. Donald Summers
 - **Notable Achievement of the Year Award**
• TACA-Chicago - Zeyno Baran
 - **Notable Achievement in the Business World Award**
• Alınur Velidedeoğlu (DFH) - Hakan Cizem (DFH)
 - **Turkish American of the Year Award**
• Dr. Attila Erban
 - **Outstanding Achievement in Arts and Sciences Award**
• Dr. Ilgin Aka - Dr. Ali Erdemir - Dr. Süleyman Gökoğlu
• Dr. Hakan Kaya
 - **Component Association of the Year Award**
• ATA-Houston
 - **Young Turkish American of the Year Award**
• Aynur Hodge - Ömer Demircan
 - **Şükrü Elekdağ Award**
• Ahmet Ertegin

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ATAA 7th Annual Delegation Visit To Turkey

WHAT MESSAGE DID ATAA TAKE TO TURKEY THIS YEAR?

Our message this year was simple. We lectured no leader in Turkey on Turkish internal or external politics and we told everyone, we were in Turkey this year, because:

1. ATAA would like to be self sufficient with finances received only from membership, and private enterprise. In this sense, ATAA takes the first courageous steps, and hopes that all other associations abroad follows suit. This is essential for any successful grassroots lobbying effort anywhere in the world. Turkish associations must be independent to receive respect in those societies.
2. ATAA is independent, unbiased, free of all internal politics in Turkey, and politically aligned with no one. ATAA is open to Turkish people from a variety of backgrounds: economically, educationally, politically, and ideologically. This is also essential, because there is power in numbers, and to gain the numbers, we must concentrate on commonalities, not differences among ourselves.
3. Turkish lobbying efforts abroad by Turkish associations must be as NGOs acting first for the good of the societies in which they live.

4. Promoting the Turkish image and defending Turkish issues in the U.S. do require a massive PR attack on the part of the Turkish government, and past efforts of accomplishing this task through the expensive lobbying companies have been fruitless.

EXTENSIVE TURKISH MEDIA COVERAGE FOR ATAA

We were front-page headline news in *Hürriyet*, the daily with the biggest circulation in Turkey. The headline read "The Diaspora's Insurance Game!". It cited our warning message for the past two years to Turkey on the Armenian insurance claims, and warned the leaders. Head writer Mr. Oktay Eksi also had a first page article on the item and stated: "I guess Mr. Ercüment Kiliç doesn't know that in our country some authorities don't have the custom of taking precautionary steps not to have the bus roll over before it does. We usually have the accident, and then take measures."

Milliyet article on a quote I provided, which was received by the ATAA office from an American stating: "How could Turkey do this, I even helped you during your earthquake", received attention by Foreign Relations Committee of Turkish parliament. AKP leadership there was uncomfortable about the article.

However, we explained that this was a ripple effect of what had actually transpired and that we had no intentions on declaring opinion as to why Turkey did what it did.

ATAA visit was also front-page headline news on Turkish Daily News, as well as Milliyet, Yeni Safak, Cumhuriyet, and Radikal.

President-elect of ATAA, Vural Cengiz and I were guests on TV programs on TRT, and Kanal 8. Various other TV stations such as TRT2, TRT International, Star, Samanyolu TV, and NTV also reported on the ATAA visit for a number of days.

HOW WAS THE MESSAGE RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION PARTY, AND OTHER PARTIES?

A group of 18 of us visited with the Turkish president Ahmet Necdet Sezer, prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, various cabinet ministers: Abdullah Gül, Mehmet Aydin, Erkan Mumcu, Besir Atalay, Kemal Unakitan, the MGK General Secretary Tuncer Kılınc, and the political party leaders Deniz Baykal of CHP, Ali Talip Özdemir of ANAP, Mehmet Agar of DYP, and Cem Uzan of Genç Party.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan stated, " I follow your progress with pleasure", and without an exception, everyone we spoke to, applauded ATAA for its direction, including all the members of the Turkish press.

THE PROGRAM IN ISTANBUL WITH TUSIAD:

After the four-day visit in Ankara, we concluded our trip in Istanbul with an open-to-the-press-symposium with TUSIAD, with their leadership, and Ambassador Sukru Elekdag who joined in as a speaker. This was a very successful, well-attended event by the press and Turkish business community.

During the opening speech, following Aldo Koslowski of TUSIAD, I invited all the private sector in Turkey to take a more keen role in image promotion of Turkey abroad, and I invited their corporate financial support for NGOs abroad such as ATAA. President-elect Vural Cengiz, and ATAA member Ahmet Yucel were among the panel speakers, examining Turkish-US relations.



ATAA LEADERSHIP VISITED ERIC EDELMAN, THE NEW AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY

ATAA leadership and membership paid a courtesy visit to Eric Edelman who is expected to be appointed to the U.S. Ambassador position in Turkey by this fall. Mr. Edelman whose parents were immigrants to Turkey in the early part of this century from Russia, certainly seem to make his appointment to the position not only a wise one for the United States, but also a pleasant one for Turkey. His very sincere, approachable and unassuming style will probably be important assets to the further development of the relationship between Turkey and the United States. During the visit ATAA president Ercument Kılıç was accompanied by ATAA Secretary General Özgür Karaosmanoğlu, ATAA Vice President Oya Bain and other ATAA Members, as well as the ATA-DC President Hülya Polat.

President Ercument Kılıç also stated at the end of the meeting "as ATAA we want to be more visible in the United States and especially in Washington, DC as an NGO and a think tank, presenting a cross section of views of a variety of Turkish-Americans. We will publish annual white papers, and we would like your kind assistance in communicating these views in person to the Vice President and the President", and Mr. Edelman promised an effort to accommodate.

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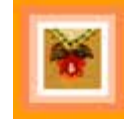
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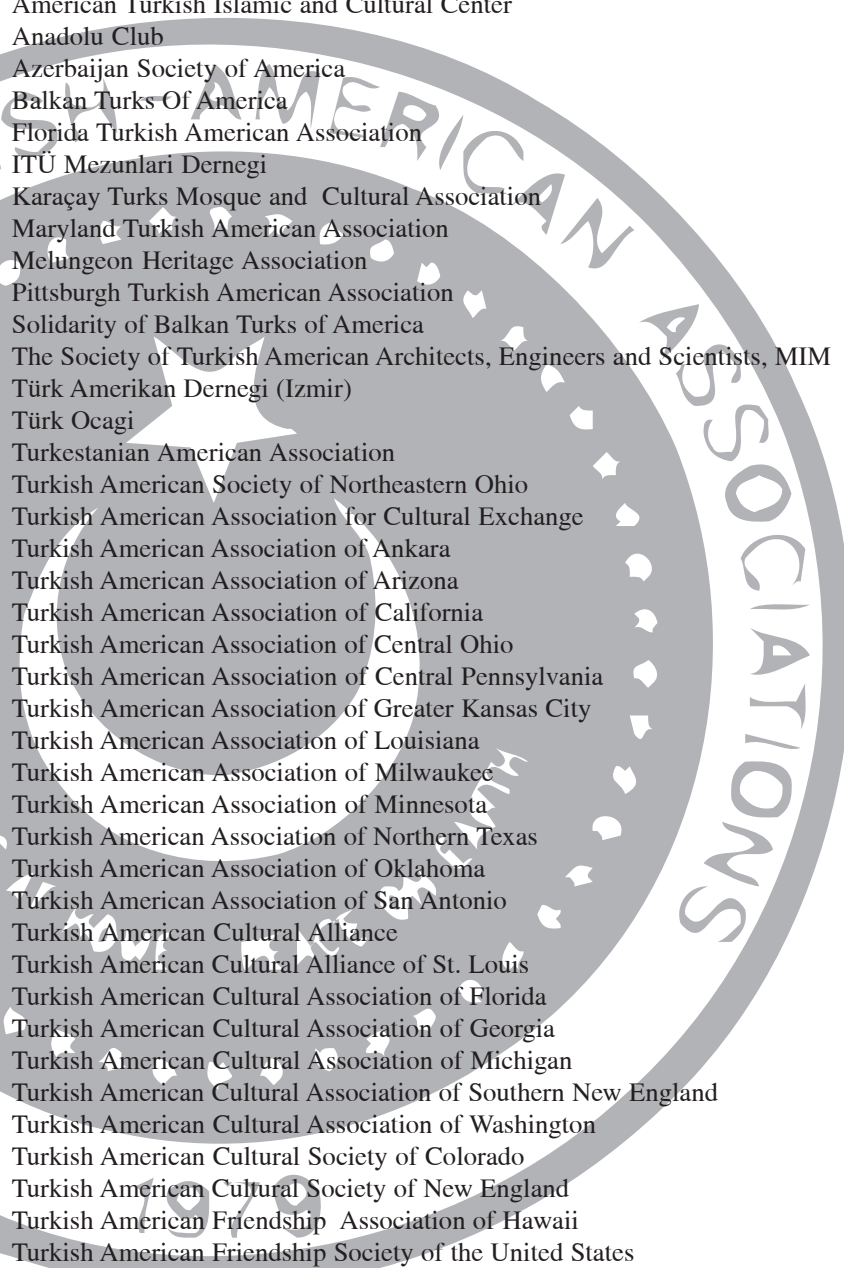
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