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Armenian National Committee of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign Affairs Legislative Aide
From: Kate Nahapetian, Government Affairs Director
Date: February 12, 2008
RE: U.S.-Turkey nuclear proposal needs careful scrutiny

President Bush recently proposed a rare agreement to transfer nuclear technology to Turkey, despite serious concerns over **Turkey's nuclear proliferation activity and involvement in A.Q. Khan's nuclear black market.**

A similar deal was proposed in 2000, but later aborted, due to reservations over Turkey's commitment to nuclear non-proliferation. Since then, these concerns have only grown.

- * **Turkey has repeatedly defended Iran's nuclear program**, consistently resisting U.S. efforts to isolate Iran over this issue. Recently, Turkey rejected U.S. pleas to sever ties with an Iranian bank that assists in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in Iran. ("Ankara Cold to U.S. Warning on Iranian Bank," Turkish Daily News, January 30, 2008.)
- * Ted Galen Carpenter from the CATO Institute has expressed concerns stating, "Sentiment within both the general public and the political elite in Turkey seems to be **growing in favor of Turkey emulating Iran and developing its own nuclear program.**" (AHI Presentation, November 13, 2007)
- * FBI and CIA officials have outlined alarming information concerning **Turkish efforts to illegally acquire nuclear secrets from the U.S.** ("For sale: West's deadly nuclear secrets." The Times, January 6, 2008).
- * Turkey was one of only seven countries that the Government Accountability Office focused on in a recent nuclear proliferation report (Report: GAO-08-21) because of its involvement in A.Q. Khan's illegal nuclear black market, which sold nuclear secrets to Iran.

Congress, which has only 90 days from the announcement on January 23, 2008, should carefully scrutinize the impact of this nuclear deal on U.S. security and America's interests in the region.