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# Genocide resolution should pass

By: JIM HORN - Commentary (Monday, October 22, 2007)

A brouhaha is brewing regarding the proposed resolution -- the timing is an issue -- to recognize the Turkish genocide directed at Armenians ninety years ago when more than 1.5 million Armenians were slaughtered by Turks. During the two years I lived in Turkey, I got to know and understand the Turks and Armenians, as well as other downtrodden minority groups in that country.

The resolution is a Democratic initiative and President Bush is trying to block it, claiming the resolution will provoke the Turks to cut off routes used to supply our bases in Iraq.

The Turks are angry at Iraqi Kurds who harbor guerrillas who have been attacking Turks in support of Turkish Kurds who want independence from Turk oppression. The Turks are threatening to mount a significant incursion across the border into Iraq to attack the Kurds, the most successful of the three major Iraqi groups in self-government. In this attack, the Turks would cut those supply lines anyhow.

The resolution is driving the Turks batty because they want to control how we Americans manage our internal affairs. Their threatening to cut off routes through Turkey that we use to supply our bases -- and Iraqi Kurds -- if it passes is just an excuse they are using in support of their argument to attack Iraq.

While the Turks were a useful ally during the Cold War, the Cold War is over and that alliance means nothing now. The Turks needed us more than we needed them because Joe Stalin was ready to trounce them, and NATO gave the Turks protection.

The Turks sabotaged our pre-invasion plans in Iraq. They have been the most useless, costly and problematic NATO partner in the alliance, repeatedly in disputes with a more stalwart NATO partner, Greece.

If the Turks cut off our supply lines into Iraq or attack Iraq -- the Iraqi Kurds -- they should be booted out of NATO, and all American and European military assistance to Turkey should be cut off. They no longer need it. They are no longer threatened by the USSR.

A clarifying note: The so-called Turks garnered a reputation of incredible ferocity during the Korean war. The reality is that the “Turks” who fought so valiantly were in fact Kurdish conscripts, along with conscripted Christian Armenians, Assyrians, Bulgars and Greeks. The only contribution the Turks made was their officers and senior noncoms who stood behind the conscripts with machine guns at the ready to gun down any who faltered.

A congressional vote for the resolution would be well-deserved recognition for the significant contributions Armenian-Americans have made to America, a lot more than the Turks have contributed.

**Jim Horn of Sun City is a retired U.S. diplomat**

WHO KILLED THE ARMENIANS IN WORLD WAR I?
WHO KILLED THE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THAT?
GENOCIDAL TURKS
CONGRESSIONAL COWARDS

THE TURKS ARE OUR ALLIES IN THE WAR ON TERRORISTS.
STATE DEPT.

WE DON'T WANT TO OFFEND THEM BY...
STATE DEPT.

...POINTING OUT THAT THEIR ANCESTORS WERE...
STATE DEPT.

...TERRORISTS
WAGGERMAN
STATE DEPT.