

DIASPORAN QUARTERLY "WINDOW" ON CONTEMPORARY CHURCH ISSUES

window™



WINDOW VIEW OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH

Till recently I didn't know about the existence of a "Window Quarterly" in general. The appearance of "Window" daily news on Groong network related with the elections of the All-Armenian Catholicos opened the window to "Window". During the elections of the catholicos I met the editor of the quarterly Hratch Tchilingirian in Etchmiadzin. Tchilingirian - not a journalist by profession, is a full time research student at London School of Economics which is part of University of London. He is working on a Ph.D dissertation about current events in Artsakh. Talking with him I learned a lot about this unique diasporan periodical.

"Window" is published since 1990 by the joint efforts of a group of clergy and laity of the Armenian Church called ACRAAG (The Armenian Church Research and Analysis Group). ACRAAG came together to respond to a need for a professional publication which will deal with contemporary issues in the Armenian church. ACRAAG attempts to feel the need for a professional and innovative approach to the matters facing the Armenian people in general and the Armenian Church in particular. With a firm commitment to the Traditions of the Church and sharing the vision of St. Gregory the Illuminator, ACRAAG, through its Window, provides a forum for contemporary Church thought. The aims of ACRAAG are: through research and observations, highlight the role of the Armenian Church in the life of the Armenian people; to provide publications that would further contribute to the growth of the Armenian community in the Faith of their forefathers; to fill the gap between the National and Religious characteristics of the Armenian Community. Issues related to social and moral aspects, theological, leadership issues are touched upon in the "Window" e.g. Vol.II, No.1 talks about cults in Armenia, Vol.III, No.3 & 4 covers

the issue euthenasia (assisted suicide), Vol.IV, No.1 is titled Theology of War: Karabakh etc.

By the words of H.Tchilingirian "The interesting aspect of Window is that all of us who work for Window are involved with the life of the church. We are insiders so to speak. The critics or the views that are expressed are within the realm of the church and that's why we called it "Window" where we look inside and we look from inside outside to evaluate and to see ourselves from a different perspective." One other point of "Window Quarterly" is that it's an independent publication. This is a very important factor and a rare case for a diasporan periodical. "We are not affiliated with any diocese or church or organization," Tchilingirian continues. "Our being independent is very important for us so that we can write freely without any editorial censorship or intimidation."

To my question who is the sponsor of "Window" the editor replied: "Nobody sponsors us. We brought together our own financial resources and after the third issue we were already self-sufficient with subscriptions." So from the words of the editor "Window" right now is self-sufficient through subscriptions. "And probably it's among the very few Armenian publications that are self-supporting through subscribers," added Mr.Tchilingirian. It is noticeable that there are no advertisements in this publication. "Window" is not a commercial project. It's all volunteer work. All the work is paid by subscriptions which cover the expenses for printing and technical support. "Our view was that initially when we started we thought that if there

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QUARTERLY IN THE DIASPORA TODAY!"*

- ASBAREZ (8/92)

will not be enough subscribers to make this self-supporting project then we wouldn't do it. As it is not a commercial venture it is important that there is an interest out there. We proved beyond our expectation that there is an interest. Our subscribers now are beyond the limits of the United States all over the world in Europe, in Middle East and elsewhere," continued the editor.

The special email release of "Window" on a daily basis provided during the 2-3 weeks of the elections was a unique case too. "We thought that we had the background, resources to cover such an important event. So, we decided to do that as a public service. We don't have any plans for the ongoing of a daily news service." "Window" will be covering the elections in Antilias too. It already provided information about the preparations and process for the elections of Locum Tenens. "Whenever we shall know about the date of the election of the Catholicos for the Cilician See we will also provide coverage for that."

The Armenian Church is making new roads on the information Superhighway with the availability of the "Window" on the Internet. The ACRAAG, publishers of Window have joined forces with the St. Andrew Information Network (SAIN) to make Window available through the SAIN archive server. Electronic subscriptions and downloading of past issues are now available from any site on or connected to the internet.

**NOYAN TAPAN HIGHLIGHTS
EDITORIAL BOARD WISHES
GOOD LUCK TO THE REALLY
UNIQUE ACTIVITY
OF "WINDOW" ...!**



The Noyan

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Highlights
Lapan

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PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS - 1995

In the passed week the formation of electoral commissions in constituencies was completed. Political parties and coalitions participating in elections presented panels of their candidates to the Central Electoral Commission.

Summarizing the results of formation of electoral commissions in constituencies it should be noted that meetings of members of these commissions during which chairman, deputy chair