

## GOMIDAS INSTITUTE NOTES

From the Ambassador  
Sir Peter Westmacott, KCMG, LVO

British Embassy, Ankara  
Sehit Ersan Caddesi 46/A  
Cankaya, Ankara, Turkey

8 July 2005

HE Mr Bülent Arınç  
Speaker of the Parliament  
Turkish Grand National Assembly  
ANKARA

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I am writing to follow up your letter of 28 April to the Speaker of the British Parliament, the Rt. Hon Michael Martin MP. As his reply to you of 16 May indicated, he passed your letter and enclosures to the Foreign Secretary, who has instructed me to reply.

I understand that Mr Speaker has placed your letter and its enclosures in the Library of the House of Commons where they are available to all Members of Parliament. As documents placed in the Library, these papers become part of the permanent records of Parliament, and act as a comment on the Blue Book itself and one to which historians have access.

As you are aware, the Blue book entitled "*The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire*" is a Parliament-owned document. Many documents are laid before, and published by, Parliament without parliament being required to vouch for their authenticity. As a member of Her majesty's Government it is not for the Foreign Secretary to comment on the validity of a Parliament-owned paper. However the Foreign and Commonwealth Office understands that whilst the publication of the Blue Book may have been regarded as desirable at the time in the context of the war effort, none of the individual reports has been refuted; and few have suggested moral or intellectual dishonesty on the part of the authors, Lord Bryce and Arnold J Toynbee.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Peter Westmacott