



THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

LIBRARY SERVICES

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February 3, 2006

Dear Mr. Berman:

Regarding your suggestion that the Library of Congress change its subject heading "Armenian massacres, 1915-1923" to "Armenian genocide, 1915-1923," you are probably aware there are resolutions on this subject currently pending in both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. It is inappropriate for the Library, as an agency of the Congress, to attempt to anticipate the outcome of the Congressional debate on this subject and to change the heading prematurely. We are carefully following the debate in Congress, and will consider changing our heading should the pending resolutions be adopted. I can reassure you that neither the State Department nor any other executive branch agency has in any way been involved with or "interfered" with the Library in this matter.

A reference has been made from the term "Armenian genocide, 1915-1923" to the established heading, so no library user who looks under that term is denied access to relevant material.

I would like to reiterate what Dr. Barbara Tillett, from the Library's Cataloging Policy and Support Office, explained to you in a previous letter. You can be assured that we seriously consider your suggestions for improving Library of Congress subject headings, even though we have not been able in the past, and will not be able in the future, to respond specifically to every communication that you send to us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deanna Marcum".

Deanna B. Marcum

Associate Librarian for Library Services

Mr. Sanford Berman
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