California

restitution claims grow

Los Angeles

Support for

Israeli art

West Coast projects

Armenian refugees in Syria, 1915

more favourable,” he said.

Last month, a case was bought against the US Federal Reserve
Bank by the nonprofit Center for
Armenian Remembrance, which
is suing over the US acquisition
of more than $8.3m-worth of
Armenian gold allegedly looted
by the Ottoman government in
1915. The centre says that the
Turkish government deposited
the assets in Germany's
Reichsbank, and that the US and
other Allied powers took them as
reparations after the first world
war.

Bazyler says that litigation
opens the doors for cases
against museums for holding
looted art. The Walters museum
in Baltimore has 11 Armenian
manuscripts including a gospel
by T'oros Roslin—the same
producer of the pages involved
in the Getty case—which has
notable gaps in its provenance
between 1915 and 1929.

The Getty case looks likely to
be settled out of court.

A spokeswoman for the J. Paul
Getty Trust said: “We are in dis-
cussions and both sides are eager
for an amicable resolution.”

Charlotte Burns

Law makes photographing Florida farms a crime

FLORIDA. It will soon be a crime for artists to photograph farms in
Florida. A new law, effective from 1 July, states that “a person who
photographs, video records, or otherwise produces images...at or of a
farm...without the written consent of the owner...commits a felony of
the first degree.” The maximum term of imprisonment for a first-
degree felony is 30 years, said Eugene Volokh, a law professor at the
University of California, Los Angeles. American photographers have
documented the country’s rural landscape over the decades, including
Dorothea Lange whose work for the Farm Security Administration
chronicled the plight of labourers during the Great Depression.

C.B.