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CONFIDENTIAL.

(3003.)

Memorandum respecting the Persecution of the Nestorian Christians by the Turks, Persians, and Khoordish Chiefs.

THE Nestorians are a body of Oriental Christians inhabiting the mountainous regions of Khurdistan on the borders of Turkey and Persia, to the westward of Ooroomia.

Colonel Sheil, No. 70; August 31, 1843.

For a number of years they contrived to maintain themselves in independence, owing to the nearly inaccessible nature of the country which they inhabited.

8vo., 5668, p. 11.

They were first brought into more general notice by the Euphrates Expedition which was sent out by the British Government, under the command of Colonel Chesney, in 1835.

During the last thirty-six years the attention of Her Majesty's Government has been frequently called to the cruelties which have been practised against them, as well as to the persecutions, oppressions, extortions, and other hardships which they have suffered at the hands of the Turks, Persians, and Khoordish Chiefs.

The correspondence upon the subject is very voluminous, occupying, as it does, five thick folio volumes, and it is therefore only proposed on the present occasion to give such a description of its contents, as relates to the actual sufferings of these people, and the steps which the British Government has taken with the view of alleviating them.

Ibid, p. 15.

Memorandum; March 24, 1842.

In 1838 Mr. Ainsworth and Mr. C. A. Rassam, Vice-Consul at Moussul, were instructed by the Christian Knowledge Society to make enquiries into the state of the Christians in Khurdistan; and in 1840 they made their report to the Society, which

showed that these Christians were then in a state of very great depression.

In 1842 the Patriarch, Mar Shimon of Julamerk, the temporal and ecclesiastical head of the Christians in independent Turkestan, as well as other of their Bishops and clergy, were anxious to have a clergyman of the Church of England to assist them in the education and improving their people, and the Reverend G P. Badger was accordingly sent out by two of the Church of England Societies on a mission to the Nestorians, but it was unsuccessful, and the mission was withdrawn.

To Sir S. Canning, No. 31; March 24, 1842.

"Nestorians and their Rituals," Badger, 1852, 8vo., 5668, p. 171.

Accounts had also been received by Her Majesty's Government that the Turkish Pasha of Moussul was very oppressive in his conduct towards these people, and it was reported that by his heavy exactions and continued monopolies he was fast reducing the country to the lowest state of misery and destitution.

Consul Brant, Erzeroom, No. 14; August 16, 1841.

Bishop of London; February 26, 1842.

It was reported that on one occasion (in 1841), without any provocation whatever, these Christians, whilst quietly pasturing their cattle, were attacked by a Khoordish Chief who governed the country under the Pasha of Moussul, when about twenty of them were killed and many others sent in chains to Moussul to be detained there until a very heavy ransom was paid for their deliverance.

No cause whatever was assigned for this outrage.

In 1843 the Nestorians at Dez were attacked, by the Khoords, under Beder Khan Beg, Emeer of Buhtân, when they sustained great loss of life and property.

Sir S. Canning having previously received intelligence of the intended attack, brought the subject, confidentially, under the notice of Rifaat Pasha, and received a promise that instructions favourable to the Nestorians should be sent to the Pasha of Moussul; but if any such instructions were sent they either arrived too late, or were unheeded by the Pasha of Moussul, who had evidently planned the expedition.

Sir S. Canning, No. 169; August 1, 1843.

Colonel Sheil, No. 70; August 31, 1843.

The united Khoordish forces then advanced upon the Nestorians who resided in the Tyari country, and at their approach the Patriarch fled, with a few attendants, to Moussul, and took refuge in the British Vice-Consulate.

Sir S. Canning, No. 179; August 17, 1843.

Colonel Sheil, No. 70; August 31, 1843.

The Nestorians offered a feeble resistance, but

with the powerful Khoordish Chiefs whose army had so cruelly ravaged the Nestorian territory; but Sir S. Canning stated that there was too much reason to believe that the Pashas of Erzeroum and Moussul had secretly connived at the Khoordish attack, and that the Porte itself gave its promises of issuing instructions to the Pashas with evident indications of weakness and reluctance.

Sir S. Canning, No. 208; October 1, 1843.

The number of women and children carried captive to Jezerah were stated to amount to 125, which was considered to be about a tithe of the captives destined to be sold and presented to Moollahs and Mahommedan Sheiks, the friends and followers of Bedr Khan Beg; one lad was presented to the Emeer of Sherwân, four to Zendi Agha, eight married females to other Mussulman adherents of the Emeer of Jezerah, and a girl and a boy to the Governor of Moussul, who took steps at once to have the boy circumcised.

Vice-Consul Rassam; August 17, 1843.

Inclosure in above despatch.

Vice-Consul Rassam; August 27, 1845.

Inclosure in above despatch.

Eventually all the Christian captives were given away or sold, some to merchants of Trebizonde.

Vice-Consul Rassam; September 10, 1843.

Vice-Consul Rassam did all in his power to obtain the release of these captives, but to no purpose; in reporting his proceedings to Sir S. Canning he observed that eight years previously (that is in 1835), when the Jacobites were similarly enslaved by the Bey of Rawandouz, the French authorities obtained a Firman for the liberation of every individual Christian, and that on that occasion several females who had become pregnant by their Mahommedan masters were set at liberty by the Agents of the French Government.

Inclosure in above despatch.

Mr. Rassam rescued one old female slave, and was authorized to pay 200 piastres to her Mahommedan master.

The following instances of special acts of cruelty were mentioned:—

Five young children were thrown into the air and their bodies cut asunder whilst falling, and a priest was stoned to death in a river; and it was reported that seven females, with their children tied to their backs, precipitated themselves from a bridge into a mountain stream rather than live to endure a shameful and cruel captivity.

The number of cattle seized by Bedr Khan Beg was very great, and 2,750 sheep and 50 bullocks were sent by him to Mahomed Pasha, who made the

"Your statements have been communicated to the Turkish Government in the manner which appeared to me best calculated to produce a favourable effect. But you must remember that any interference between the Porte and any Christian community, enjoying or pretending to a certain degree of independence, but situated within the limits, as generally recognized, of the Turkish Empire, cannot be entirely divested of those considerations which belong to the rights of sovereignty, to the local difficulties which embarrass their exercise, and to the remoteness of the scene of suffering from any British settlement, or place accessible to British power.

"On the present occasion my representations have not been unfavourably received. Distinct assurances of redress have been given to me, and indications of a willingness to enter into terms with the Nestorian Patriarch have also been afforded. Unfortunately, the prevailing policy of the Porte, and the sentiments of those in power, are little in harmony with our views and principles of Government. Whatever appearances of improvement may float upon the surface, much of the old system is retained beneath; and, while we are liable to be deceived by forms of courtesy and external concessions, the Pasha who succeeds in collecting tribute, and extending the Sultan's authority, at whatever expense of justice, humanity, and good faith, is sure to be regarded with partiality, and in the first instance, at least, to be defended and supported. Nor is it indeed to be expected that any independent Government will consent to give up its officers upon the first appeal of a foreign Representative; and we must further admit in fairness that the Porte is neither secured against the misrepresentations of her own delegates, nor so circumstanced as to be able to maintain her authority over distant and barbarous tribes, by the mere employment of those milder and regular means of control which are elsewhere found to be sufficient in ordinary times.

"I have now to inform you, in confirmation of what I wrote before, that the Porte, being put in possession of the terms upon which Mar Shimon has stated his readiness to become an acknowledged tributary to the Sultan, has expressed, through Rifaat Pasha, a favourable disposition towards the proposed arrangement. I am given, however, to understand that further information is to be previously obtained from the Pasha of Moussul, and I have no doubt that the Turkish Ministers would prefer greatly to treat directly with the Patriarch himself, though I have not concealed from them that the degree of confidence necessary to the success of a direct negotiation can hardly be expected to prevail in his mind without more encouragement and stronger assurances than I am yet at liberty to give.

"With respect to the evacuation of the Christian

districts occupied by the Koord Chiefs in their late combined attack, and the release of the Christian slaves, the Minister for Foreign Affairs has assured me, in reply to my earnest solicitation, that reiterated orders have been prepared for those purposes to the Pashas of Erzeroum and Moussul, and also to the Pasha of Diarbekr.

"The first instructions, I believe, are gone; I have strongly urged the necessity of dispatching the second to-morrow, but I cannot answer for the success of my instructions.

"It will be your duty to ascertain from Mehemet Pasha whether he has received instructions corresponding with the assurances of the Turkish Ministers, and, whether he has received them or not, you will endeavour to prevail on him to adopt immediate and efficient measures for carrying those assurances into effect. You will not hesitate, if necessary, to make him understand the weight of responsibility which rests upon him, express to his Excellency the hope which I entertain, that his known intelligence and energy will be employed on this occasion efficiently for the protection of those whose interests are recommended to him by his own Sovereign, and whose complaints have not gone up in vain to the British Government.

"You will be careful at the same time to bear in mind that our interference is friendly in its character, that it requires to be managed, especially by you, with delicacy and discretion, that it might be inconvenient, if not impracticable, to enforce it by adequate means, and that the Turkish authorities, with every proper disposition, may find it indispensable to temporize with a Chief so powerful and disobedient as Bedr Khan Beg.

"As for the most advisable method of proceeding with a view to the recovery of the Christian slaves, I cannot at this distance pretend to supersede that local knowledge which will in all probability be found the best guide in such a matter. You will be able, I trust, to concert with Mehemed Pasha the adoption of suitable measures. As you conjecture that some of the captives have been conveyed to Trebizond, I shall write upon the subject to our Consul in that city.

"I cannot conclude without remarking that the Porte accuses the Nestorians of having been the first to make an attempt upon one of the Koord villages. If this charge be well-founded, the indiscretion of such an act, to say the least of it, is obvious, and tends materially to account for the disastrous situation into which these Christian tribes have been unfortunately thrown.

"I have, &c.

(Signed) "STRATFORD CANNING."

On the receipt of Sir S. Canning's despatches, inclosing copies of all the papers above referred to, Lord Aberdeen replied as follows:—

"Your Excellency will avail yourself of every suitable opportunity to impress upon the Porte that Her Majesty's Government feel a strong interest in the well-being of the Christian subjects of the Sultan, and would see with the deepest concern not only the positive oppression of any Christian sect with the sanction of the Porte, but even the indifference of the Turkish Government to their being oppressed by any subordinate authority. Nothing, indeed, could be more calculated to indispose the feelings of European nations towards the Porte than the manifestation on its part of a system of policy adverse to the Christians under its rule; and the Porte, if it were so ill-advised as to adopt such a system, might have reason at no distant time to deplore the infatuation which would have led it to disregard the counsels and exhortations of the Christian Powers in this respect."

Sir S. Canning, No. 245; November 20, 1843.

The intelligence which continued to arrive from Moussul respecting the state of the Nestorian Christians was still most afflicting. Fresh ravages and massacres were reported in consequence of an effort, it was said, having been made by the Christians to shake off the yoke imposed upon them.

Consul Brant; October 31, 1843.
Inclosure in Sir S. Canning's No. 254; December 1, 1843.

The Pasha had at this time received his instructions from the Porte, but as he was not disposed to act upon them, additional and more stringent instructions were, on the application of Sir S. Canning, sent to him.

Sir S. Canning, No. 245; November 20, 1843.

The British demands on the Porte were these:—

"Restitution of the Nestorian prisoners; evacuation of the country invaded and occupied by Bedr Khan Beg and the Koordish Chiefs who acted with him; assistance in rebuilding the destroyed houses against the approach of winter; delivery of two boys, whose release had been ordered before, to the Nestorian Patriarch; and grant of the Porte's protection to the Patriarch on a suitable agreement being made with him."

Memorandum inclosed in above despatch.

It was also suggested that an Ottoman Commissioner should be sent to Moussul and proper communications opened with Bedr Khan Beg.

On the 18th November following further instructions were sent by the Porte to the Pasha of Moussul, and at the end of the following month a Turkish Commissioner (Kemal Effendi) took his departure from Constantinople for Moussul, and arrived there in February 1844.

Inclosure in Sir S. Canning's No. 245; November 1, 1843.

Sir S. Canning thought it would be most desir-

To Mr. Stevens;
December 21, 1843.

Inclosure in Sir S. Canning's
No. 279; December 31, 1843.

able on every account to place some confidential agent in communication with Kemal Effendi, and he accordingly instructed Mr. Stevens, Vice-Consul at Samsoon, to proceed to Moussul, which he did, and arrived there soon after Kemal Effendi.

To Sir S. Canning,
No. 2; January 3, 1844.

On the 3rd January, 1844, the following further instruction respecting the Nestorians was sent by Lord Aberdeen to Sir S. Canning:—

"Your Excellency will continue to urge the Porte in behalf of that sect; and it may induce the Porte to carry out the intentions which it professes to entertain in their favour, if the Turkish Ministers are apprized by your Excellency that there is scarcely anything which could produce a more unfavourable impression in this country than any hesitation on the part of the Porte to relieve the Nestorians from their present calamities, and to secure them from a repetition of the outrages of which they have been the victims."

Mr. Stevens;
May 5, 1844.
Inclosure in Sir S. Canning's
No. 126; of June 17, 1844.

At that period (May 1844) a case occurred at Moussul similar to that which took place in May last at Salonica, when the German and French Consuls were murdered.

A Nestorian slave was found at Kerkook and sent, under Major Rawlinson's auspices, to Moussul, to be examined as to her pretended conversion to Mahomedanism.

On entering the town the Nestorian woman was seized and taken from her husband by the Cavass of the British Consulate and conveyed thither; whereupon the Kaimakam sent a message to Mr. Stevens stating that until the case had been properly investigated the women must be looked upon as a Mahomedan, and that if she was not delivered up a serious row might ensue, and that he, the Kaimakam, would not be answerable for the consequences.

The man declared that the woman had been given to him in marriage by the Khanum of Bedr Khan Beg at Jezireh; but the woman declared that she had been forced to change her religion, and desired to return to Christianity.

To avoid a disturbance, it was eventually agreed to place the slave in the custody of a respectable person until the arrival of Sheriff Pasha or Kemal Effendi, and she was eventually handed over to the Nestorian Patriarch, Mar Shimon. Ultimately the affair was settled without any serious disturbance.

The result of Kemal Effendi's mission was so far successful that many slaves were restored, and the power of Bedr Khan Beg broken for a time.

The following account was given by Mr. Stevens of what passed at the interview between Kemal Effendi and Bedr Khan Beg :—

Mr. Stevens; May 18, 1844. Inclosure in Sir S. Canning's No. 126; June 17, 1844.

"The Koord Chief told the Pasha that he had no intention of again molesting the Nestorians: that those now in Moussul might be sent back, and that he held himself responsible to Sheriff Pasha for their safety. He would restore as many more slaves as could be collected. Zeynel Bey he had dismissed from the Provisional Government of Ashertah.

"With regard to the plundered property, Bedr Khan Bey repeated what he had before told Kemal Effendi, that it consisted of sheep consumed by his troops, a small sum of money distributed among them, and, he added, a number of muskets which were sent to Kiamilly Pasha, of Erzeroum.

"Sheriff Pasha told the Chief that all Europe, and England in particular, felt an interest in the Nestorians, and that the Ambassadors were constantly impressing on the Porte the necessity of providing for their safety. 'You perhaps fancy,' continued the Pasha, 'that the English have no right to interfere in these matters, but you are not aware that Treaties exist, and are constantly made between the Porte and the Governments of Europe, which give the latter a right to remonstrate on these occasions. The English are our friends, and when we had war with Mehmed Aly, they did the work for us, and abolished in an hour's time the fortifications of St. Jean d'Acre, the walls of which were so wide that the troops played the Jereed on them. If you do not leave these Christians tranquil, England will tell our Government; either punish Bedr Khan Bey, or let us do so, and you may depend upon it they will get at you, for they carried war into China 5,000 hours from their country.'

"The Pasha's eloquence seemed to make some impression on the Bey; he said, that the Nestorians were the first aggressors, and that he had been drawn into the scrape by the Hakkyeri Chief, who had solicited his assistance towards subduing the independent Christians.

"With regard to the Christians of Jebel Tor the major part of them have been withdrawn from Bedr Khan Bey's rule by the re-annexing of Mediat to the Pashalic of Diarbekr. The new Musselim has been installed, and Bedr Khan Bey has apparently reconciled himself to the loss of that important Province.

"Bedr Khan Bey denied any participation in the murder of the Primate, and promised to use his endeavours to detect the perpetrators of the crime."

Mr. Stevens;
May 18, 1844.
Inclosure in Sir S. Canning's
No. 126; June 17, 1844.

With regard to the Nestorian slaves, Mr. Stevens wrote as follows to Sir Stratford Canning:—

"The Mouchir of Diarbekr recently sent hither fifteen women and children, which he got restored by persons who had purchased them from agents of Bedr Khan Bey.

"Among them is a boy 6 or 7 years old, who has been in a Medresseh for the last nine months; he has forgotten his own language, and speaks Turkish fluently. The child cried very much on being brought away from Diarbekr, saying he was a Mahomedan. He repeated the same story here in presence of the Pasha, Mar Shimon, and others; and Kemel Effendi has, therefore, retained him at his own house, until instructions reach him from Constantinople regarding the children similarly situated at Jezireh. I saw the boy when no other person was present, and I asked him whether he did not desire to return to his parents; he answered, with an air of great indifference, that he had no parents to go to, having seen both his father and mother murdered. I don't think there is any chance of his making a different declaration; the legality or illegality of his conversion must be decided at Constantinople.

"Another slave has been brought by Kemal Effendi from Jezireh, and one sent here by the Pasha of Merdin.

"I have had repeated interviews with Sheriff Pasha about the return of the Nestorians to the mountains. He considers they would be quite safe in doing so, and in fact has decided on them back immediately.

Mr. Rassam;
May 18, 1844.
Inclosure in Sir S. Canning's
No. 126; June 17, 1844.

Mr. Rassam also wrote to Sir Stratford Canning as follows:—

"On the 10th instant (May, 1844), Mar Shimon called on Sheriff Pasha, and was treated with great respect. He informed the Patriarch that Zeynel Bey had been displaced, and that the slaves might return to their homes in Tyarii.

"The 15th was the day appointed for the captives to leave Moopool, but fortunately the evening before a priest arrived from Tyarii bringing the sad intelligence that the same outrages were still practised at Astrutha, under the brothers of Zeynel, who were left in temporary command of the garrison. This, of course, instantly put a stop to the Pasha's arrangement. We have proposed to his Excellency to send away the Kurdish garrison, and to station a few Turkish troops in their stead. Until this is done, your Excellency will perceive, that in sending back the captives to the mountains, will only be raising difficulties and be the cause of fresh outrages.

"The Pasha has agreed to our proposal. It is, I believe, arranged that the slaves shall leave this on Monday next, the 20th instant.

"Kemal Effendi returned from Jezireh on the 14th

instant, whither he had gone to bring down the rest of the slaves; in which he did not succeed, on the plea that all those remaining at Jezireh have embraced Islamism.

"Here, I beg to remark to your Excellency that these unfortunate people are put into private houses, great promises are made to them to induce them to apostatize; finding this does not succeed they are threatened with death if they attempt to acknowledge themselves Christians."*

A month later, Mr. Stevens again wrote to Sir S. Canning as follows:—

Mr. Stevens; June 15, 1844. Inclosure in Sir S. Canning's No. 137; July 2, 1844.

"The Nestorian slaves, and most of the refugees arrived safely at Asheetah, and were there claimed and made over to their respective relations. They were accompanied to the mountains by four officers on the part of Sheriff Pasha, and a man sent by me. On their reaching Asheetah, six prisoners were found in the castle, and immediately liberated. The Pasha's men will remain at Asheetah until the arrangements regarding the Nestorians be finally concluded. My own man returned hither, and I am happy to say he reports that there has been no more bloodshed for the last month or six weeks, and that many of the reports which were constantly pouring in, but which, doubting their correctness, I did not mention to your Excellency, turn out to be in some cases unfounded, and in others greatly exaggerated.

"I had the satisfaction of seeing twelve Nestorian families, in all about eighty persons, arrive from Jezireh, from which place they were released by Bedr Khan Bey last week. The whole party too, unlike the former slaves, were well dressed, and in excellent condition. They inform me that about sixty slaves still remain at Jezireh and Delghuleh, and, on the strength of the inclosure in your Excellency's despatch of the 21st May (the original has not yet reached Kemal Effendi), I have got him to make another application for their release.

In his Report of the 10th July, 1844, Mr. Stevens said:—

Mr. Stevens; July 10, 1844. Inclosure in Sir S. Canning's No. 169; August 2, 1844.

"I returned to Jezireh by the same road. From Nestorians on the spot, I learnt that there were twenty-nine male and female slaves in the town. These I demanded from the Musselim, and after some trouble they were produced, they were in twenty-five different houses. Ismael Pasha, of Amadieh, had one; the Musselim himself, two; the Cadi two; several Mollahs one each: in fact the slaves were with the principal residents.

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* The orders obtained by Her Majesty's Embassy authorized the release of Nestorian slaves even from the Turkish harems.

"Twenty-seven, women, boys, and girls, said they were Christians, and these were made over to me. I had two rafts, on inflated skins, constructed, and putting a portion of the slaves on one, and the remainder and myself on the other, I left Gizereh on the 2nd (July, 1844), and floating down the Tigris, reached Moussul early on the 4th instant.

Inclosure in Sir S. Canning's No. 169; August 2, 1844.

Mr. Stevens; July 10, 1844.

The following is an extract from Mr. Stevens' report of his interview with Bedr Khan Beg. The Beg said:—

"Some Nestorians entered my territory, and killed two men, and according to the established custom among Koordish tribes, I seized two Christians, and put them to death. Four men more were then murdered on my side, and I retaliated by killing eight Nestorians. While this was going on, the Hakkyery Chief came to solicit my aid in punishing the Christians for having plundered several of his villages near Inlamerk, and I acceded to his request. Having subdued them, I left a garrison at Usheetah, under Zeynel Beg, but no sooner had my back been turned than the Nestorians surrounded him in his castle, cutting off all supplies, and keeping him and his people nine days without water; he capitulated, and his men on leaving the castle were attacked, and several of them killed. Zeynel Beg having procured some water, re-entered the castle, and forwarded intelligence to me, when I sent a strong force (26,000 men) to relieve him, and with orders to give no quarter. The Nestorians brought on themselves my first attack, which was no very serious affair, for I lost nearly as many men as they did, before I subdued them. The second invasion they owe to their treacherous conduct towards Zeynel Beg, and this time I allow the massacre was indiscriminate; indeed it would have been difficult to prevent it, so enraged were my troops against the Christians. I regret having taken the step without previously asking the authority of my Government, and I knew not that any European Government would come forward to protect them. I considered them as being from time immemorial so many rebels, and that as such, their subjection, by any officer of the Porte, was perfectly lawful."

Mr. Stevens' Report, July 10, 1844.

Mr. Layard's "Nineveh," vol. i, pages 173 and 174.

With regard to the number of Nestorian Christians killed in 1843, Bedr Khan Beg informed Mr. Stevens that the Patriarch Mar Shimon had put the loss of life down at something like 4,000 or 5,000 souls, but that it did not exceed 2,000; but Mr. Layard puts the number at 10,000. The following note appears in his work on Nineveh, published in 1854:—

"It may be remembered, that Bedr Khan Bey, in 1843, invaded the Tiyari districts, massacred in cold blood nearly 10,000 of their inhabitants, and carried away as slaves a large number of women and children.

"But it is perhaps not generally known, that the release of the greater part of the captives was obtained through the humane interference and generosity of Sir Stratford Canning, who prevailed upon the Porte to send a Commission into Khoordistan, for the purpose of inducing Bedr Khan Beg, and other Turkish Chiefs, to give up the slaves they had taken, and advanced, himself, a considerable sum towards their liberation. Mr. Rassam also obtained the release of many slaves, and maintained and clothed at his own expense, and for several months, not only the Nestorian Patriarch who had taken refuge in Moussul, but many hundred Chaldeans who escaped from the mountains."

Mr. Badger, in his work entited the "Nestorians and their Rituals," states that between July 1843, and April 1844 his party had under their care from ten to sixty liberated and refugee Nestorians; that Lord Stratford de Redcliffe contributed 200*l.*, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, 120*l.*, and the late Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, 5*l.*, to enable Mr. Badger to provide them with food and clothing.

But the tranquillity which these people were permitted to enjoy was of very short duration, for before the close of the year 1844 the Nestorian Christians of Ooroomiah endured great sufferings at the hands of a Persian Mahometan tribe called the "Afshar Khans," who were their landlords.

This tribe oppressed them by forced labour; by bodily tortures (one Armenian being burnt to death on the threshing-floor of his village); by money exactions; and by slavery; which oppressions made them anxious to emigrate into the Russian dominions.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil and Count Medem (the Russian Minister at Tehran) appealed to the Persian Government on their behalf, and Colonel Sheil's conduct for so doing was approved by Her Majesty's Government.

After this the condition of the Christians near Ooroomiah, in Persian Khoordistan, was somewhat relieved, although they were still greatly oppressed; and as it was reported that their unfortunate

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil, No. 9; January 31, 1845.
Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil, No. 118; October 27, 1845.
Consul-General Bonham, No. 2; January 31, 1845.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil, No. 16; May 2, 1845.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil, No. 13; January 23, 1846.
Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil, No. 17; September 5, 1846.

position was greatly aggravated by the detention of their Patriarch at Moussul, Mr. Wellesley, Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople, was instructed by Lord Palmerston to intercede with the Porte in favour of the Nestorian Patriarch, and to say how much pleasure it would afford Her Majesty's Government to hear of his being set at liberty.

To Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil, No. 48; October 24, 1846.

Kemal Effendi was about this time recalled from the Tiyari District, in order, so it was stated, that the Porte might obtain from him the fullest information, with a view to ulterior proceedings; and Vizirial letters were addressed respectively to the Pashas of Moussul and Diarbekr, as well as to Bedr Khan Beg, containing an express recommendation of Mar Shimon and his interests, and requiring the restitution of the remaining slaves.

Sir S. Canning, No. 50; March 5, 1845.

To Mr. Stevens, February 12, 1845.

Inclosure in above despatch.

Consul Stevens was also instructed by Sir S. Canning to return to his post at Trebizond, and his Excellency was approved for so doing, as well as for his continued exertions to place the affairs of the Nestorians in the neighbourhood of Moussul on a satisfactory footing.

To Sir S. Canning, No. 42; April 5, 1845.

But in November, 1846, a despatch was received from Mr. Wellesley, stating that he had heard from Mr. Rassam that the Nestorians of Tekkoma—a district which was formerly tributary to the Hakkary Chief Nourallel Beg, but had lately been given by him to Bedr Khan Beg—were threatened by Bedr Khan Beg with a massacre more horrible than that which the Christians at Tayari underwent in 1843.

Mr. Wellesley, No. 89; October 17, 1846.

On hearing of the rumour, Mr. Wellesley addressed himself at once to the Porte, and received an assurance that instructions had already been sent to the Pasha of Moussul to take every measure for the protection of the Nestorian Christians, and that a serious plan of action had been prepared for the destruction of Bedr Khan Beg; but, in a later despatch, Mr. Wellesley stated that the intended expedition against the rebel chieftain Bedr Khan Beg (who had 60,000 men at his call, and inhabited fastnesses almost unapproachable) had been deferred, owing to the Porte not having a sufficiency of troops at its disposal.

Mr. Wellesley, No. 101; October 27, 1846.

In a postscript to this despatch, Mr. Wellesley announced that news had arrived from Mr. Rassam that Bedr Khan Beg (who had refused to obey the

Pasha's orders) had put his murderous intentions into execution.

The following is an extract from Mr. Rassam's despatch to Mr. Wellesley :— Mr. Rassam, October 19, 1846.

"Tahyer Pasha left this (Moussul) on the 8th (October 1846) for Sinjar Jezireh and Markin, on a tour of inspection. Mr. Layard, who has accompanied the Pasha, has written to inform me that his Excellency has received intelligence that Bedr Khan Beg has killed a great number of Tekkama Nestorians of both sexes, without distinction; a few have escaped, some to Persia, others to Berwary. All the villages have been burnt and the district laid waste. Thus another fine people and a flourishing district have been destroyed. There now remain but two Nestorian tribes, those of Jeller and Baz, and unless the Porte resolves to reduce this haughty and bigoted Chief, it is probable that they also ere long will fall victims to his merciless fanaticism." Mr. Rassam then pointed out how worse than useless it was to place any portion of the mountain districts on that (the Moussul) side of the Hakkari territory under the jurisdiction of the Erzeroom Vizier. Inclosure in Mr. Wellesley's No. 101, Oct. 29, 1846.

But in a later despatch (31st October, 1846) Mr. Rassam reported that he had been informed that the Nestorians of Tekkoma had not suffered nearly so severely as Tayari did in 1843; that most of the killed were men in arms, although women and children were also murdered; that no slaves were taken; but that the villages and fruit trees were destroyed, and that the slaughter was very great in the Khoordish districts of Paurausky and Tchal.

The following is Mr. Badger's account of the massacre: "The slaughter on this occasion surpassed the former. No quarter was given; men, women, and children fell in one common massacre. Three bags of ears cut off from the wounded, the dying, and the dead, were sent as a trophy to Bedr Khan Beg." Page 276.

Mr. Badger, in another part of his work, gives the following detailed account of this same massacre :— Page 270.

"The intelligence that the Khoords had actually invaded Tehoma was too true. In the month of October, the united forces of Bedr Khan Beg and Noorallah Beg entered that district, and committed ravages too horrible to be related. On my visit to Colonel Sheil, No. 123, November 30, 1846.

Mar Shimon in 1850, he gave me the following details of this fresh massacre: It appears that when they were apprised of this meditated attack, the people of Tehoma applied to the Pasha of Mosul for protection; but all that he attempted was to send an expostulatory message to Bedr Khan Beg. That proud Chief treated it with the greatest indifference, telling him at the same time that he had no right to meddle in his affairs. The Nestorians then accepted the offer of the Agha of Tcal to protect their women and children pending the expected affray, which, being accepted, they were all sent to him under an escort; but, the traitor having apprised Ziner Beg of their coming, the latter waylaid the party, and 300 women and as many children were brutally put to the sword in one indiscriminate slaughter. Only two girls who were left for dead on the field escaped to relate the sad tale of this horrible tragedy.

"The Khoords then attacked the men, who had taken up a most disadvantageous position in a valley, where they were soon surrounded by their enemies, and, after fighting bravely for two hours, gave up the contest. Numbers were killed in attempting to escape, and as many as 100 prisoners, mostly women and children, were afterwards taken from the houses, which were then fired by the Khoords, as were the trees and other cultivation in the neighbourhood. These unfortunate victims were then brought before Noorallah Beg and the Lieutenant-Governor of Jezeerah, as they sat near one of the churches, and heard their doom pronounced by those blood-thirsty barbarians. 'Make an end of them,' said they; 'the English Consul at Mosul cannot release them from the grave.' A few of the girls, remarkable for their beauty, were spared; the rest were immediately seized and put to death. During this invasion about 500 Nestorians were murdered, all the villages of Tehoma were destroyed, the churches were razed, the rituals were burned, and the few remaining villagers crossed the frontier and sought safety and support among their brethren in Persia.

"After this new outrage, the Porte was strongly sued by the foreign Representatives, and especially by the Hon. H. Wellesley, the then British Chargé d'Affaires, to put an end to the power of the Khoordish Emeers, and Nazim Effendi was sent out

as Special Commissioner to propose that Bedr Khan Beg should go to the capital."

The reason assigned by Bedr Khan Beg for this attack was that the Christians corresponded with the Pasha of Moussul. The number actually killed was between 500 and 600. Mr. Wellesley, No. 146; December 2, 1846.

Before the massacre took place the Patriarch Mar Shimon escaped, but he was recaptured and taken back to Moussul, where he was kindly treated by the Pasha, who had, during his absence, received the Vizirial letters respecting his protection. Mr. Rassam; October 3, 1846. Inclosure in Mr. Wellesley's No. 101; 1845.

On hearing of this fresh massacre, Mr. Wellesley at once instructed Mr. Pisani to go to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and tell him that, without attributing blame to the Sultan's Government, he could not acquit their predecessors of great culpability in not having taken those precautions that common humanity alone would suggest to prevent the repetition of such scenes of bloodshed and horror as had occurred about three years previously in the same part of the Sultan's dominions; to remind him that the Nestorians were subjects of the Sultan, and as such were as much entitled to the care and protection of the Ottoman Government as any other Turkish or Rayah subject, and to express a hope that he should receive such assurances as would enable him to convey to Her Majesty's Government the gratifying fact that the Porte would no longer permit outrages so revolting to humanity to remain unpunished. Mr. Wellesley, No. 123; November 17, 1846.

The Turkish Minister, in reply, assured Mr. Wellesley that troops would be sent in the spring of the following year, and that the Government were determined to put an end to Bedr Khan Beg; and he kept his promise.

On receipt of these despatches, Lord Palmerston addressed the following instructions to Mr. Wellesley:— Mr. Wellesley, No. 61; November 27, 1846.

"Her Majesty's Government have received with the deepest concern the painful intelligence contained in your despatch of the 29th of October, respecting the fresh persecutions which the Nestorians have suffered on the part of Bedr Khan Beg, and I have to instruct you to impress in the strongest manner upon the Turkish Government the serious injury which its interests must sustain from the disgust and indignation which these

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barbarous massacres of the unoffending Nestorians, murdered and tortured on account of their religious opinions, must necessarily create in the minds of all European nations. You will say that if the Turkish Government is not impelled by its own feelings of justice and humanity to take the most effectual steps for preventing the perpetration of such atrocious crimes in future, the simplest regard for its own political interests ought to induce it to do so.

"The natural course for any Government in such a case to pursue would be to inflict adequate and exemplary punishment upon the criminals, and to afford to the surviving part of the Nestorians effectual protection for the future.

"If the Turkish Government has not power to inflict the punishment it must surely have the means of affording the protection; but if it cannot even do that for the Nestorians in their present habitations, it ought at least to give them lands in some other part of the Turkish Empire where they would be secure against such savage and atrocious barbarities as those to which they are now exposed."

December 12, 1846, in Inclosure No. 1 in Mr. Wellesley's No. 3; January 2, 1847.

The following acts of cruelty were specially mentioned by Mr. Rassam:—

"The villagers of Khaturia were horribly tortured by placing hot iron plates on their heads, and by compressing their temples with knuckle-bones, by twisting a cord passed round the head."

The Divan Effendi, who was suspected of being the author of these atrocities, assured Mr. Rassam that he held letters from the Pasha commending him for what he had done in the affair.

Inclosure 5 in Mr. Wellesley's No. 3; January 2, 1847.

After this massacre Bedr Khan Beg withdrew from the district, when some of the Nestorian Christians returned to Tekkoma, when Noorallah Beg fell upon them, and taking many prisoners, put them to various tortures, to discover whether they had concealed any property, whereupon all the people of Tekkoma, with very few exceptions, passed over the borders into Persia.

To Mr. Wellesley, No. 2; January 6, 1847.

On the 6th January, 1847, Lord Palmerston addressed the following further despatch to Mr. Wellesley respecting the massacres committed by Bedr Khan Beg:—

"Her Majesty's Government have learnt with great pain that between 500 and 600 individuals

perished in the late massacre of the Nestorians by Bedr Khan Beg.

"I have, in consequence, to instruct you to urge strongly upon the Turkish Government the dangerous effect which such atrocities as these must produce upon the opinion and feeling of the nations of Europe in regard to the Ottoman Power. The political interests of Europe are no doubt best consulted by the maintenance of the Turkish Empire; but this is a consideration which is felt most strongly by statesmen, and which does not so forcibly strike the minds of the mass of mankind.

"As long, however, as nothing happens in Turkey to rouse the good feelings of men against the Turkish Government, State policy continues to prevail, and the statesmen of different countries are able to shape the course of their measures, according to the views which they entertain of the expediency of supporting the Sultan's Government. But if such enormous crimes and such atrocious cruelties as those which have thus been committed against the Nestorians are allowed to be perpetrated with impunity, and if the victims of such horrors have suffered merely because they entertain on religious matters opinions which accord in some degree with the opinions which prevail in Europe, a general feeling of disgust and indignation will extend from one end of Europe to the other against the Government under which such events have happened; and it is needless to point out to the sagacity of the Turkish Government the bad consequences to the Porte which must follow from the establishment of such feelings among the nations of Europe.

"It is beyond a doubt the duty of the Turkish Government to take effectual steps for punishing without delay the atrocious criminal Bedr Khan Beg; and if this is not effectually done, it will be difficult to persuade mankind that the Government of Constantinople views these wholesale massacres with those sentiments of pain and condemnation with which those events ought to inspire the Government of the country in which they have happened."

On the 1st February following Lord Palmerston addressed another despatch to Mr. Wellesley, in which he instructed him to call the attention of

To Mr. Wellesley, No. 31; February 1, 1847.

Raschid Pasha to the cruelties exercised under the authority and with the sanction of the late Tahyar Pasha, and with reference to these cases, as well as to the atrocities committed by Bedr Khan Beg, to observe to Raschid Pasha that, although it might be difficult for the Porte entirely to prevent those things, the Turkish Ministers should make every possible effort to do so, or to punish the criminals who are guilty of such acts; for that besides the disgust and indignation which such crimes created in the minds of the people of Europe, those barbarities tended to reduce the Sultan's dominions to a wilderness; and that the Porte must well know that the Sovereign who was lord of a desert derived no increase of power from the vastness of the uninhabited surface of which he claimed to be the ruler.

Mr. Stevens, No. 22; July 2, 1847.

After this, the Nestorian Patriarch, Mar Shimon, hearing that the Sultan wished him to be sent to Constantinople, fled to Ooroomia, and it was much feared that the French, who were then intriguing in that part of the world, would induce the Nestorians to declare themselves Roman Catholics, with the idea of obtaining French protection, endeavours were therefore made to induce the Patriarch to return to Turkey.

Badger's "Nestorians and their Rituals," page 279.

Lord Cowley, No. 261; August 16, 1847.

Shortly after this, news arrived that the Turkish expedition which had been sent into Khoordistan was successful, and that Bedr Khan Beg and Khan Mahmoud had surrendered to the Turkish Commander; but Mr. Layard drew up a Report on Khoordistan for the information of Lord Cowley, in which he stated that it could scarcely be expected that the capture of these two Chiefs would alone lead to the definite pacification of Khoordistan and to the complete establishment of the Sultan's authority in the mountains; and he added that, as the Porte had the whole of Khoordistan in its power, it only remained for it to reflect upon the means of consolidating its authority and improving the country.

Lord Cowley, No. 360; October 17, 1847.

Memorandum on Khoordistan by Mr. Layard; Inclosure in above despatch.

Sir S. Canning, No. 15; June 30, 1848.

With regard to the emancipation of the Christian slaves: although the Turkish Government expressed its willingness to assist in the restoration to their families of a portion of them, it made a reservation with regard to women who had either voluntarily married Mahommedans or who had had children by Mahometan husbands; and Lord Palmerston

thought such a reservation reasonable, observing to Sir S. Canning that "it would be difficult to interfere in such cases between man and wife."

To Sir S. Canning, No. 83 July 31, 1848.

A Vizirial letter, dated 7th September, 1848, was then issued by the Porte to the Pasha of Khoordistan, enjoining him to search for and to release the Nestorian Christians who were still detained in captivity, with the exceptions mentioned above.

Sir S. Canning, No. 104; September 7, 1848.

After the fall of Bedr Khan Beg, all the numerous powerful and independent Khoordish Chiefs of Khoshuao were captured by the Turkish officers and conveyed to Baghdad.

Mr. Alison, No. 113; June 17, 1848.

The Christians at Tjazareh and Tjabel Toor, in Persian territory, were now cruelly oppressed, in consequence of the Ulema having proclaimed that the Christians were the cause of the ruin of Bedr Khan Beg, and that it was therefore lawful and laudable in the Mussulmans to despoil them by preferring fictitious claims against them, and that whoever supported such suits by bearing false witness did a pious act, beneficial to religion, which would be rewarded in Paradise. False claims were accordingly presented, and the evidence of Christians being rejected, the cases were proved according to Turkish law and the Christians robbed.

Mr. Alison, No. 95; June 2, 1848.

The social condition of the Christians at Shekwala was also said to be worse than the serfs of Russia.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil also drew the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the unjust and cruel treatment of the Nestorian Christians in Azerbijan by the Persian authorities, whereupon Lord Palmerston addressed the following despatch to Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil:—

Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil, No. 113; July 9, 1851.

"I have to instruct you to say to the Ameer i Nizam that it is impossible for Christian Governments and Christian nations to see with indifference the ill-treatment and persecution of Christians in any part of the world on account of their religious opinions; and the British Government deems itself more peculiarly entitled to remonstrate with a Mahometan Governor against such evil practices, because the Queen has a large number of Mahometan subjects in her dominions, and those Mahometans are treated with perfect justice, and are never in the slightest degree interfered with or molested on account of their religion. Her Majesty's Govern-

To Lieutenant-Colonel Sheil, No. 96; September 19, 1851.

ment therefore feel that they are warranted in earnestly recommending the Christian subjects of the Shah to the justice and protection of the Shah's Ministers."

Mr. Stevens; June 11, 1851. Inclosure in Mr. Alison's No. 113; July 2, 1851.

Mr. Stevens gave the following account of the manner in which these people were ill-treated by the Persian officials:—

"Between 150 and 200 Nestorians recently came here to obtain passports for Georgia, whither they annually resort in search of employment, which furnishes a provision for the winter wants of their miserable families. They were informed that the passports would be issued by the Vezeer i Nizam, to whom they therefore presented themselves. Their names were regularly taken down, but instead of receiving passports they were made soldiers of. Among them is an old man with his three sons.

"One of these Christians remarked to the Vezeer that he knew nothing of military duties and begged to be discharged. The Vezeer replied that the duties were easy to learn, and that he would at once give him his first lesson. The triangle was produced and the unfortunate man received 200 lashes, amidst the laughter of all the lookers-on, the Vezeer jokingly asking how he liked a soldier's life.

"Mr. Stevens added that most of these Nestorians having escaped from Tabreez, a Mohessil had been sent to Ooroomia to seize them, or if they could not be found, their relatives; and that he had also learnt that many of the people of Kkozroo,* hearing that the Government contemplated seizing men for the army, quitted the village and went to Bashkalla."

Mr. Alison, No. 28; February 8, 1853.

After this, a long correspondence ensued with regard to the tyranny which continued to be practised on the Nestorian population of Ooroomia by the Afshav Khans, who were Mahommedans, and the chief landlords of the Province, and who looked upon the Christian population as their serfs.

The cruelties practised on these people were described by Mr. Alison and Consul Stevens as various and most revolting. Instances were mentioned of a Christian girl of 8 years being violated and then murdered; of a Nestorian who owed 30*l.* to a Mahommedan being beaten to death by his creditor; and of another being severely bastinadoed

* A large Christian village.

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and tortured on mere suspicion of having murdered a Mahommedan; besides other cases of great cruelty and oppression. On these facts being brought to the notice of the Persian Government, it promised to take immediate steps to relieve the Christians from the oppression from which they suffered.

Mr. Murray, No. 45; April 3, 1856.

But the principal acts of oppression arose out of the promulgation of a law by which a member of a Christian family, on becoming a convert to Islam, became entitled to the family property.

This law gave rise to the abduction of Nestorian girls by Mahommedans, who thus hoped to succeed to the property of their family.

The French Lazzarist missionaries in Persian territory, as well as the French Roman Catholic clergy at Jezireh, in Turkish territory, also contributed to the persecution of the Nestorians.

Mr. Thomson, No. 179; September 20, 1854.
Lord Stratford, No. 878; October 7, 1857.
Mr. Murray, No. 6; February 15, 1857.

Accordingly, in May 1856 Lord Clarendon instructed Mr. Murray (in the event of the British mission, which had been withdrawn from Persia, returning to Tehran), to direct his efforts to the amelioration of the condition of the Nestorians living in the Shah's dominions; and, on his return, he did so repeatedly.

To Mr. Murray, No. 22; May 24, 1856.

In September 1857 the Nestorian community at Moussul addressed a petition to Sir Stratford Canning respecting the continuance of the persecutions to which they were subjected, and his Excellency transmitted a copy of it home, whereupon Lord Clarendon informed Sir S. Canning that Her Majesty's Government would learn with great satisfaction the success of any efforts he might make in behalf of that persecuted community, in whose welfare they felt much interest.

Sir S. Canning, No. 787; September 2, 1857.

To Sir S. Canning, No. 857; September 22, 1857.

The petitioners were natives of Tiary, Berwary, Buhtan, Hakkary, &c., and they complained of the continued oppression both of the Turks and Khoords.

As the persecution on the part of the Persian Khans still continued, Lord Russell, in July 1862, informed Mr. Alison that although "he did not deem it proper to instruct him to interfere officially on the behalf of these unfortunate and interesting people, yet that he should be glad to learn that his unofficial efforts had been the means of alleviating their misery."

To Mr. Alison, No. 43; July 9, 1862.

Nevertheless, every kind of oppression continued

Mr. Abbott, No. 11;
May 6, 1862.

to be heaped upon the Nestorian Christians in Persia; their women being frequently carried off from the district of Ooroomia, some by seduction, but most of them by open violence and force, and whilst the French were striving to persuade them to become Roman Catholics, the Russians were intriguing to induce them to adopt the Greek religion, and claim Russian protection, whereupon Lord Russell determined to appeal officially to the Persian Government on their behalf; and on the 30th July, 1863, his Lordship addressed a despatch to Mr. Alison (who was then in England), in which he said:—

To Mr. Alison, No. 3;
July 30, 1863.

"The circumstances which have, at different times and from different quarters, been brought to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Government, render it necessary that, on motives of humanity, as well as on the ground of sympathy for the long-continued unjust treatment sustained by a Christian people, you should be instructed to take more active steps in this matter than you have hitherto done.

"You have hitherto only interfered unofficially on behalf of the Nestorians. I have now to instruct you, on your return to Tehran, to represent their case officially to the Persian Government.

"I have further been informed that steps have been taken to induce the Nestorians to profess the Greek faith, and to place themselves under the protection of Russia. The Persian Government should weigh well the consequences of a large body of its subjects being compelled, for self preservation, to take such a step. For, if the Nestorians, in order to obtain relief from their sufferings, formed a union with either the Greek or Latin Churches, the Persian Government must be well aware that the Governments of France or Russia would interfere authoritatively on their behalf; and the Persian Government must not imagine that public opinion in this country would disapprove an interference to put an end to systematic oppression inflicted with their tacit permission on a Christian community.

"You will, therefore, on your return to Tehran, make an official representation to the Persian Government in the sense of this despatch; and you will also take an early opportunity of speaking to the Shah on the subject, impressing on His Majesty the interest which is felt by Her Majesty's Government for the welfare of the Nestorians, and respectfully soliciting His Majesty to give stringent orders to the Sirdar at Tabreez, to punish severely the Khans and other persons who maltreated them, and to warn the Sirdar himself that His Majesty will hold him responsible for any future violence and oppression to which they may be subjected.

The following is an extract from them :— To Mr. Alison, No. 53; August 24, 1865

"It is clear from your despatches and the correspondence therein enclosed, that many of the grievances of the Nestorians continue unredressed, and Her Majesty's Government regret that the measures which you were instructed in 1863 to urge the Persian Government to adopt for their relief have not been honestly carried into execution.

"Her Majesty's Government approve the steps which you have taken to obtain an inquiry into the conduct of Mirza Nejef Ali, who is, of course, entitled to be heard in his own defence. You will take proper measures in order to cause the investigation of Mirza Nejef Ali's proceedings to be fairly conducted, and if it should appear that the charges against him are well founded, I have to instruct you to make official representations to the Persian Government on the subject, and to ask for his removal.

"In this case you will endeavour to obtain the nomination of a proper person to watch over the interests of the Nestorians, and you will likewise endeavour that effectual means shall be taken to relieve them from the oppressions which they continue to suffer.

"I have further to instruct you to afford all the protection you properly can to the American Missionaries, and their labours, among the Nestorian Christians."

The correspondence of this period is filled with continued complaints of the oppressive conduct of the Mahometan landlords and the duplicity and bad faith of the Persian authorities.

Before the end of the year 1865, Mr. Glen left Ooroomia; and no sooner had he taken his departure than the persecutions under which the Nestorian people had so long suffered were all revived. Mr. Alison, No. 109; November 9, 1865.

These facts were again brought to the notice of the Persian Government by Mr. Alison, who expressed to Lord Clarendon his opinion that a Christian should be appointed to watch over the affairs of the Nestorians instead of a Mussulman; and his Lordship concurred in this suggestion. Mr. Alison also suggested that the Shah should grant them a piece of ground to the Nestorians to build a church upon; which suggestion was also approved. Mr. Alison, No. 109; November 9, 1865. Mr. Alison, No. 112; November 11, 1865. To Mr. Alison, No. 3; November 13, 1865. To Mr. Alison, No. 1; January 2, 1866.

On the proposal being made to the Shah that a Christian should be appointed to preside over the Nestorians at Ooroomia, His Majesty most readily consented to the proposal, and at once gave orders for the appointment of such an officer under the Governor of Ooroomia. Mr. Alison, No. 130; December 4, 1865.

No. 53;
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His Majesty further consented to give to the Nestorians a site for building a new church, as the one at Ardeshai, about which there had been much contention, was still in the possession of the Roman Catholic Nestorians.

His Majesty, moreover, put his name down at the head of the subscription list for the sum of 100*l.*; and in reporting these facts home Mr. Alison observed:—

"This bounty and condescension of the King ought, in my opinion, to be widely known among the Powers of Christendom, for their association in such a cause would doubtless be attended with results of great benefit to all the Christian communities of the East. It would show that the great Powers of Europe were ready to unite, without reference to sectarian distinctions, in a work of pure benevolence, and that the Christians of the East could no longer be insulted and wronged with impunity."

To Mr. Alison, No. 8; January 22, 1866.

Her Majesty's Government expressed their full appreciation of the Shah's great liberality, both as regarded the granting of a site for a church and the contribution so publicly made to the funds necessary for its construction.

Mr. Alison, No. 136; December 21, 1865.

The Ministers of France, Russia, and Turkey being then appealed to by Mr. Alison to join in the subscription, they all responded most readily, and Mr. Alison was authorized to subscribe 80*l.* on behalf of Her Majesty's Legation towards the erection of the church, but, in acknowledging the receipt of this despatch, Mr. Alison stated that the object had already been provided for, as he had himself subscribed 50*l.*, Mrs. Alison (mère), 5*l.*; Mr. Dickson, 1*l.*; Mr. Glen, 1*l.*; Mr. Abbott, 1*l.*, making in all 58*l.*; but he suggested that, as the acquisition of such a handsome contribution would go far to supply the requisition of the poor Nestorian community, the 80*l.* granted by Her Majesty's Government might be paid into his banker's hands on behalf of the Nestorian Church fund, of which he was the responsible treasurer; which was done, and Mr. Alison was so informed in a secret despatch, dated 26th April, 1866.

To Mr. Alison, Separate, Secret, January 22, 1866.

Mr. Alison, No. 1; January 2, 1866.

General Jehangeer Khan, a Christian of high birth, and greatly respected for his upright and honourable conduct, was then appointed head of the Nestorians, at which Her Majesty's Government expressed their utmost satisfaction, and declared that

they accepted it as a fresh proof of the Shah's friendly intentions towards the Nestorians. A letter recounting what had passed between the British and Persian Governments was then addressed by Lord Clarendon to the Evangelical Alliance, which Society had more than once appealed to the Foreign Secretary on their behalf, and it was published.

Mr. Alison, No. 8; January 22, 1866.

But in February following Mr. Abbott reported that not only were the orders issued by the Shah disregarded by the Governor of Ooroomia, but that the bearer of them was ill-treated by order of the Prince.

Mr. Abbott, No. 3; February 17, 1866.

Upon receipt of this intelligence, Mr. Alison was instructed to bring the matter before the Persian Government, and, if necessary, to see the Shah and to urge His Majesty not to allow the liberal and enlightened orders which he had given with regard to the Nestorians to be disregarded and set at naught by his officers.

To Mr. Alison, No. 27; March 31, 1866.

Mr. Abbott's conduct was approved for all the steps he had taken to ameliorate the condition of the Nestorians, in whose condition, he was again told, Her Majesty's Government took the liveliest interest.

To Mr. Abbott, No. 5; April 25, 1866.

It will have been observed that during the years 1864, 1865, and the early part of the year 1866, the correspondence which passed upon the subject of the oppression of the Nestorian Christians had reference to those who resided within Persian territory; but in May, 1866, Mr. Vice-Consul Rassam, of Moussul, again drew attention to the intolerable oppression to which the Christians in the district of Zakko were still subjected at the hands of the Khoordish tribes of Sindea and Gozan in Turkish territory.

Lord Lyons, No. 263; July 14, 1866.

In the summer of 1866 Mr. R. T. Thomson was sent by Mr. Alison to Ooroomia to inquire into the condition of the Nestorian community, and on the 3rd September of that year he furnished to Tehran a full report of their grievances, and in sending a copy of it to Her Majesty's Government, Mr. Alison stated that although the cases of personal violence and persecution had not been renewed since the energetic remonstrances made by Her Majesty's Government, yet that the systematic extortion under which the Christian population suffered, in common with the Mussulman and other subjects of the Shah, was still in force, although not to such an

Mr. Alison, No. 3; January 15, 1867.

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To Mr. Alison, No. 16;
April 17, 1867.

extent, perhaps, as formerly; and he added that the Shah continued to show a favourable disposition, and had renewed his orders for the redress of the grievances which had been brought to his notice.

Lord Stanley expressed to Mr. Thomson, through Mr. Alison, his approval of the manner in which he had carried out the instructions which had been given to him; and he was desired to take an opportunity of conveying to the Persian Government, the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the well being of the Nestorians would not be lost sight of by the Shah and his Ministers, but that they would continue their exertions to secure those unfortunate people from further repetition of the ill-treatment and oppression on the part of the local authorities, described in Mr. Thomson's reports.

Mr. Taylor, No. 3,
February 20, 1867.

In February, 1867, the Nestorian Patriarch, Mar Shimon, sent letters to the Papal Mar Yusuf of Moussul, stating his desire, and that of his flock, to be received into the Church of Rome. This step was no doubt taken at the instigation of the French Monks of the Propaganda of Moussul and Salonas, but was mainly caused by the rumoured intention of the Turkish Pasha to send a military expedition to enforce payment of the taxes, which, owing to the inability of the people to pay them, were then six years in arrear.

Lord Lyons, No. 189;
May 16, 1867.

Rumours were also current of a contemplated expedition against the mountain Nestorians of Tekkoma, in consequence of their not having paid their taxes; but Mar Shimon assured Mr. Rassam that the people of Tekkoma had paid them into his hands, and that he had paid them over to Dervish Beg. The Turkish Government, however, not only pleaded all ignorance of this contemplated expedition, but telegraphed to Baghdad and Erzeroum and warned the Governors of those provinces against making any attack upon the people or taking any step in the matter without the express authorization of the Porte, and no such expedition appears to have taken place; but in July of the following year reports also reached Her Majesty's Government of various wrongs to which Jews as well as Nestorians were suffering at the hands of the Persian authorities, whereupon Mr. Alison was instructed by Lord Stanley to take every suitable opportunity of strongly pressing upon the Shah and his Ministers

Mr. Alison, No. 139;
November 17, 1868.

the interest felt by Her Majesty's Government in both these classes of his subjects, and their earnest hope that the Shah would extend to them his protection, would redress any wrongs they might suffer, and would make his Mussulman subjects clearly understand that any act of violence and wrong committed by them on Jews or Christians would not only entail upon them personal punishment but the payment of pecuniary compensation to the sufferers out of their own resources.

In September 1867, Mr. Taylor, of Erzeroum, reported that complaints had reached him of the persecution practised against the Protestant Nestorians by Mar Shimon, and of the outrageous conduct of a certain Sheikh Abdullah of Shemsdino, of the Hakkaree District, in destroying an old cathedral church belonging to the Nestorians at Katouna, a village in the Nochra District of Shemsdino, converting half of it into a mosque, desecrating the graves of bishops and priests, and inciting the Khoords to an uprising against the Christians, with the intention of appropriating their lands, and reducing them to the species of serfdom which formerly prevailed in those mountains.

Consul Taylor, No. 17; September 5, 1867.

Mr. Elliot was instructed to represent this matter to the Porte, and to point out the ill effects the persecution of a Christian people would have on the public mind in Europe, and the danger of collision with Persia which must arise from the continuance of disorder on the frontier. Mr. Elliot was further instructed to inform Mar Shimon that if the Nestorians, who were themselves in need of foreign influence to protect them from oppression on the part of their Mussulman neighbours, became in their turn persecutors of Christian sects, they would themselves be left to their fate, and would not in their own difficulties receive protection or support from British Agents.

To Mr. Elliot, No. 4; October 7, 1867.

Mr. Elliot executed these instructions, the result of which was that a Firman was issued by the Porte to the Governor-General of Erzeroum, directing him in the most stringent terms to bring to trial and punishment the authors of the outrages reported by Mr. Consul Taylor.

Mr. Elliot, No. 16; November 2, 1867.

In the same month, and again in January, of the following year, a deputation from the Evangelical Alliance waited upon Lord Stanley at the Foreign

September 21, 1867.

Office, with reference to the Nestorians, and on the latter occasion they handed to his Lordship a paper on the "Koordistan Fanaticism in Nochea," when Lord Stanley again promised to use his good offices with the Porte in favour of these Nestorian Christians.

Mr. Alison, No. 115; November 11, 1867.

In November 1867, the question again arose as to whether any further assistance could be given by Her Majesty's Government towards the repairing and restoring of certain places of worship belonging to the Nestorians at Chehar Goorkeh, when Lord Stanley's attention was drawn to what was done in 1865; upon which his Lordship wrote, "I hope we shall spend no more money in this way; it would be difficult to defend it in Parliament;" and nothing further was accordingly done in the matter.

Mr. Alison. No. 136; December 16, 1867.
Mr. Abbott, No. 27; December 31, 1867.
Mr. Alison, No. 1; January 8, 1868.

A correspondendence then ensued with regard to Russian protection in favour of the Nestorians at Ooroomia, but Mr. Alison thought it unadvisable to discuss the subject officially, as it was known that the Russians were not well disposed towards that community, although they were unwilling to be thought behindhand on a subject which affected the well-being of the Christians in the East.

Mr. Taylor, No. 14; October 27, 1868.

In October 1868, Consul Taylor, of Erzeroum, reported fresh acts of severe oppression under which the Nestorians suffered from the Khoords, in the absence of any proper protection from the Turkish officials, and he pointed out that it was on that account they sought to ensure foreign aid and interference in their affairs. He stated that during the previous two years they had been plundered of several thousand head of sheep, cattle, and mules; that several villages had been entirely pillaged; that six of their churches had been destroyed; that eight men had been barbarously murdered; and that no less than ten virgins and married women had been ravished and forcibly abducted from their homes by the Khoords, or Government Police; and that no punishment had attended any of these acts.

Inclosure in Consul Taylor's No. 14; October 7, 1868.

It may be useful to record in passing that the number of the Nestorians living in the mountains of Khurdistan at this time was stated by Mar Shimon, in a letter to Russian Grand Duke Michael, to be 16,000 families.

Mr. Alison, No. 440; November 22, 1868.

Mr. Elliot, upon hearing of these outrages, again urged upon the Porte the necessity of taking

measures to relieve the Nestorians from the oppression of the Khoords and Turkish officials, but it appeared that the Turkish Government was well aware of the unsatisfactory state of things then existing, and had previously sent Ali Bey on a mission of inquiry into the Armenian provinces.

With regard to the Nestorians in Ooroomia, Mr. Abbott, in August 1868, sent home an abstract of certain rules which had been laid down by the Persian Government for the treatment of its Christian subjects in Ooroomia, &c.

Mr. Alison, No. 139; November 17, 1868.
Inclosure in Mr. Alison's No. 139; August 1, 1868.

In December 1868 Mr. Alison reported that the Nestorian church at Ardeshai had been completed and consecrated; and he stated that there was present at the consecration a large assembly of Nestorians, the most intelligent and respectable individuals from different parts of Ooroomia, who were all delighted with the building; and he inclosed a vote of thanks which was passed on the occasion, to the Shah, the "English Ambassador, and to all the other contributors of the funds for building the great and very beautiful church, and for so great a gift to the Nestorian people."

Mr. Alison, No. 146; December 15, 1868.

In June 1870 the condition of the Nestorians at Ooroomia was reported to have improved under Ser Perest Abdullah Ali Khan, who, although not a Christian, appears to have administered justice in an impartial manner; but it was added that the Nestorians were, nevertheless, still subjected to the same capricious tyranny as was exercised indiscriminately towards all the subjects of the Shah.

Mr. Alison, No. 19; June 22, 1870.

But their condition was really little improved, for, in July and October, 1871, Consul Taylor furnished further reports on their state and condition in the Hakkaree District, and described the tyranny to which they were then still subjected at the hands of the Khoords and the Turkish authorities.

Mr. Taylor, No. 7; July 4, 1871.
Mr. Taylor, No. 12; October 22, 1871.

The above, then, is an outline of the persecutions which the Nestorian Christians have suffered for the last thirty-six years in Turkey and Persia, but there are many other interesting facts recorded in the correspondence which it has not been thought necessary to allude to in this Memorandum.

On the 30th of July, 1875, a memorial from the Nestorians was forwarded to Lord Derby by Lord Shaftesbury praying for assistance to enable them to establish a school at Urmia (? Ooroomiah). The

Mr. Tallack;
December 9, 1875.

To Mr. Tallack;
December 15, 1875.

memorial was sent to Mr. Thomson on the 30th August following, with an instruction to take the request into his consideration, and furnish Lord Derby with a report on the matter, but it has not yet been furnished.

On the 9th December last, Mr. Tallack forwarded to Lord Derby a copy of a letter which he had addressed to the "Times" respecting the Nestorian Christians, and asked for the good offices of Her Majesty's Government in their behalf; when he was informed, in reply, that Mr. Thomson had been called upon for a report upon "the position of the Nestorian Church."

Mr. H. Marcus;
June 13, 1876.

The last letter received at this Office respecting the Nestorians was one from a Mr. H. E. Marcus, in which he stated that his people in Persia were very much oppressed by the Mahommedans, and prevented from going to the right quarter to complain of their wrongs and to obtain redress; that if they went to the highest authorities, they could not get help; that it was the same in Turkey, which Kingdom was itself a partaker of the robberies and murders that were committed; that their churches were destroyed, some being used as palaces for the Chiefs and some as mosques; that their daughters were robbed by day and night and forced to become Mahommedans; that their Chiefs were murdered, and the murderers left unpunished; and that orphans and other children went about crying for bread, as their homes were destroyed and the property stolen.

Mr. Marcus then prayed that, as these oppressions were still going on and there was nothing to stop them, and that it was feared that, on account of the accession of the new Sultan, things would be worse if help did not arrive, Lord Derby would grant him an interview, at which, in a few words, he could explain much; and he was informed, in reply, on the 21st June last, that his Lordship could not give him a personal interview, but that he would consider any statement he might make to him in writing, but no further communication has been received from him.

E. HERTSLET.

Foreign Office,
December 2, 1876.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

MEMORANDUM respecting the Persecution of the Nestorian Christians by the Turks, Persians, and Khoordish Chiefs.

Foreign Office,
December 2, 1876.

FO 141
812/15

www.seyfocenter.com

File 7008

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FO 141/812
Return by (27/09/2012)
8246237 (PhD student Sabri Atman)

Closure status: Open

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SUBJECT: Assyrians

FILE No. 17003

www.seyfocenter.com

REFERENCES TO QUESTIONS DEALT WITH IN

THIS DOSSIER			OTHER DOSSIERS	
Date	Subject	No.	Subject	File No.
			Iraq: relief + repatriation	8057

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HIGH COMMISSIONER
EGYPT
27 FEB 1924
NO 17003/1

TURKEY.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[December 27.]

SECTION 5.

[E 12100/84/65]

No. 1.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received December 27.*)

Downing Street, December 24, 1923.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, copy of a secret despatch from the High Commissioner for Irak on the subject of the future of the Assyrian race.

I am, &c.

J. E. MASTERTON-SMITH.

Enclosure in No. 1.

Sir H. Dobbs to the Duke of Devonshire.

(Secret.)

The Residency, Bagdad, December 13, 1923.

My Lord Duke,

I HAVE the honour to submit suggestions on the future treatment of the Assyrian race.

2. In October last I interviewed a number of representative Assyrians at Mosul and in the districts lying between Dokuk and Amadiya, and made enquiries into their present situation, the result of which is set forth in the following paragraphs :—

(A.)—*Assyrians from Persian Territory.*

3. There are now in Irak only about 5,000 Persian Assyrians. Their homes were in Urumia and its neighbourhood. They are supporting themselves either by service in the levies, or by daily labour in Mosul, or by cultivating as tenants the lands of Christians or Kurds in the north-western portion of the Mosul Vilayet. About 9,000 of them have already returned to their places in Persia, and are doing fairly well there. But they complain that the Persian authorities are compelling their children to learn the Koran in the schools, and are generally suppressing Christian education. If this could be remedied, and if they could secure some guarantee of good treatment, such as the appointment of a British vice-consul to Urumia, they would all prefer to return to Persian territory. I recommend that a British vice-consul be appointed to Urumia, with special instructions to report periodically on the welfare of the Assyrians. This would be cheaper and less embarrassing than any plan hitherto suggested, and would be the most natural and permanent solution of our difficulty in so far as the Persian Assyrians are concerned.

(B.)—*Assyrians from Turkish Territory not to be claimed for Irak.*

4. There is no prospect of the inclusion in Irak of the Assyrian districts of Lewin, Berwar North, Kochannis, Diz, Noiduz, Van, Gavar, Mergavar, Tergavar, Shamsdinan and Mar Bisho. I suggested to the refugees from these districts, who number about 6,000, that they might possibly be able to return to their homes under the same conditions as I have suggested for the Persian Assyrians, a British consul or vice-consul being again posted to Van. They refused to entertain this project. I explained to them that, failing this, there was nothing for them but to settle under the Irak Government, which would be advised by British advisers for some fifteen years, and which they could consequently trust not to oppress them for at least that period. After some discussion, they seemed to be reconciled to this idea, provided they could be given permanent titles to Government lands in suitable places, instead of being mere tenants at will, as at present. I ascertained that there were considerable tracts of Government lands in the Dohuk division which might be made available for Assyrian settlement, and desired the administrative inspector of Mosul to prepare a list of

Government villages which could be examined for the purpose. This I have not yet received, but I have not wished to delay this despatch for the want of its receipt. These Assyrians complained that in many of the villages in which they had been temporarily settled they had been decimated by malaria, and they feared that this disadvantage would attach to any other villages which might be assigned to them in the submontane tracts available for settlement. I found that it is true that malaria is excessively prevalent in all this neighbourhood, and that it attacks new settlers with particular virulence. But I am informed that malaria is almost equally bad throughout the original homes of these Assyrians, in spite of their greater elevation. They will not therefore be subjected to any new disability in their new villages. I recommend that the plan of the settlement of these Turkish Assyrians in Irak be steadily pursued, and I will take the matter further as soon as I get the lists of lands for which I have asked.

(C.)—*Assyrians from Territory to be claimed for Irak.*

5. The Assyrian tribes from territory which is to be claimed for Irak are the Upper and Lower Tiari, Tkhuma, Baz, Jelu and others, numbering in all about 14,000. Of these, about 7,000 (mainly Upper and Lower Tiari and Tkhuma) have already returned to their homes, and more are expected to return next spring and to begin rebuilding their houses. Their great difficulty hitherto has been the lack of big beams for their roofs, since all the big poplars growing on the spot have been cut down by the Turks, and the cost of importing beams from elsewhere is prohibitive. In consequence they have to look forward to a long period during which they will have to live in temporary huts. I gathered that, even if their country were given back to the Turks, these people, with the exception of the Baz and Jelu, had every intention of staying in it, and of defending themselves in their mountain fastnesses as long as they could. This they hope to be able to do, especially if they can be provided with ammunition. The Jelu and Baz tribesmen, on the other hand, declared that they would not return to their country if it were given back to the Turks, since the land is in any case poor, and their country is more open to Turkish attack than the Tiari and Tkhuma country. If, therefore, the Turks obtain the Jelu and Baz country, these tribesmen will have to be given land under the Irak Government, like other Assyrians who refuse to return to their homes under Turkey.

6. If the Tiari, Tkhuma and Jelu and Baz country were assigned to Irak, those who had their homes there desired that it should become autonomous, under British protection. I said that this would be very difficult to manage, owing to the remoteness of their country from the sea. They then said that they wished at all events to be interfered with as little as possible. Having already consulted with the then Prime Minister on this point, I told them that I believed that it could be arranged that they should live under a very loose form of control similar to that formerly exercised over them by the Turks, who allowed them to choose their own headmen and to arrange for the collection and payment of their taxes. They said that they would in the last resort, and very reluctantly, accept such an arrangement, provided that they could be regularly supplied with ammunition to defend themselves against their neighbours, the Kurds, and provided also that they could have in charge of them a British consular officer, who would be able to mediate between them and the Irak Government. If this could be arranged, they would be willing to continue serving the Irak Government in the levies. I replied that I thought it might be arranged that a supply of ammunition should be sent up to them every year, but that I doubted whether it would be possible to assign a special British officer for their protection. There would for many years to come be a British administrative inspector at Mosul, and he would always be able to intervene effectively for their protection, if necessary.

(D.)—*Summary of Recommendations.*

7. My recommendations may be summarised as follows:—

(*a.*) The Assyrian refugees from Persia remaining in Irak should be encouraged to return to their homes, and will do so if Persia will guarantee that the religious education of their children shall not be interfered with, and if a British consul or vice-consul can be appointed to Urumia to look after their interests.

(*b.*) The Assyrians from former Turkish districts not claimed for Irak, about 6,000 in number, will not return to their homes, and must be given suitable lands in the submontane districts of Irak. Such lands are likely to be available.

(*c.*) The Assyrians from former Turkish districts now claimed for Irak will all of them return to their homes if this claim is upheld, and will settle down in fair contentment under a loose form of subordination to the Irak Government, provided the British Government can guarantee the regular supply of ammunition to them. If these lands are returned to Turkey, the bulk will still remain in their homes and do their best to defend them; but the Jelu and Baz will not do so, and must be given lands in Irak as under (*b*).

8. I have written the foregoing on the assumption that no form of autonomous Assyrian State in the north of Irak can be seriously contemplated. The plan of Agha Petros for an Assyrian State, which is to include Mosul and Rowanduz, seems in any event so fantastic as hardly to merit examination. Such a State would comprise a majority of Arabs and Kurds hostile to the Assyrians, and the mere canvassing of such a project would alienate from the British Government all Moslem opinion throughout Irak, and would make the pursuit of our present policy towards Irak impossible. The adoption of such a project would fatally and permanently entangle us in the highlands of Central Asia. Nor can it be claimed that Great Britain is under any obligation to make for the Assyrians such heavy sacrifices as this plan would entail. The British had no need of the Assyrians in the war, and did not encourage them to rise against the Turks. It was the Russians who stirred them up, just at the time of the outbreak of the Russian revolution, and who then deserted them. The British rescued the remnant of the race, brought them round through Western Persia into Irak, supported them there for years at a cost of several million pounds, and have since then trained their young men to arms. If we now see that as many of the Assyrians as possible shall be resettled in their homelands with what security we can compass, and that the rest shall be planted in suitable spots in Northern Irak, we shall, in my opinion, have amply met any claims which they can be said to have upon us.

I have, &c.
H. DOBBS.

17003/2

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HIGH COMMISSIONER EGYPT 3 MAR 1924 NO 17003/2

EASTERN (MOSUL).

CONFIDENTIAL.

[January 21.]

SECTION 2.

[E 687/88/65] No. 1.

Secretary of State for the Colonies to the High Commissioner for Irak.—
(Communicated to Foreign Office, January 21.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Downing Street, January 19, 1924.*

QUESTION of Assyrians.

1. I concur in suggestion that we should encourage remainder of Persian Assyrians to return to Persia. His Majesty's Minister at Tehran is being consulted by Foreign Office both as to suggested appointment of British vice-consul at Urumia and as to school difficulty mentioned in your despatch. On receipt of Minister's reply I will address further communication to you.

2. His Majesty's Government propose at forthcoming frontier negotiations to press in any case, as regards Assyrian area, for the "extreme limit" frontier proposed in your secret despatch of the 18th October. This is with a view to making provision for all Assyrian communities, with the exception of those referred to in 1 above, on lines recommended by you. It is recognised by His Majesty's Government that direct settlement with Turkish Government will almost certainly be prevented by this demand, and that reference to the League of Nations will consequently be required. Our case before the League would be greatly strengthened if it could be shown that sufficient territory would be available within proposed frontier for ultimate settlement of all Assyrians, including communities scattered outside Irak at present His Majesty's Government would be glad to be nformed for this purpose—

(*a.*) Approximate number of scattered Assyrians likely, if desired frontier is obtained, to return eventually to Irak.
(*b.*) Precise locality and total area of land in Irak available for their settlement, and whether this area is adequate in your opinion.

3. It would not be possible for any section of Assyrian community to be supplied with arms by His Majesty's Government. If settlements of Assyrians in Irak are to be armed, it must be done as part of its organised system of defence by Irak Government. In no circumstances can there be any question of Assyrians outside whatever frontier may be eventually decided being supplied with arms by either the Government of Irak or His Majesty's Government.

4. Would it not be possible to mitigate present unhealthiness of Dohuk area, in which it is proposed that Assyrians should be settled, by relatively inexpensive measures against malaria? Please ascertain to what extent Irak Government would be prepared to assist in such measures. As preliminary step I suggest that expert to examine local conditions and submit recommendations to Irak Government might be sent out from the School of Tropical Medicine in England. Such mission unlikely to cost more than 1,000*l.*, which might be regarded as money well invested by Irak Government.

5. Irak Government should be pressed by you to agree in principle to settlement of Assyrians on lines indicated above under loose Irak control and to provision of enough land for accommodation, if and when they come, of further returning Assyrians. It should be represented to them—

(*a.*) That from diplomatic standpoint best and perhaps only prospect of securing strategically defensible and really satisfactory frontier for Irak is afforded by this.
(*b.*) That Irak would secure excellent military material for defence of northern frontier by settlement of Assyrians.
(*c.*) That there is risk, if the Assyrians are not satisfied with their treatment by Irak, of their being tempted to throw in their lot with the French or the Turks.
(*d.*) That we expect Irak Government on general grounds to give us assistance in doing what we can for a people to whom we are under obligations for services rendered during the war.

This refers to your secret despatch of the 13th December.

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HIGH COMMISSIONER EGYPT 9 MAY 1924 17003/3

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EASTERN.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[April 22.]

SECTION 1.

[E 3538/88/65]

No. 1.

Mr. Hodgson to Mr. MacDonald.—(Received April 22.)

(No 338.)

Moscow, April 10, 1924.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 275 of the 5th March, I have the honour to report that, according to such information as I have been able to obtain, the number of Assyrian refugees scattered over the territory of the Soviet Union is something in the neighbourhood of 40,000.

2. Of the total number approximately 30,000 were at one time Turkish subjects, from various parts of Mesopotamia, more particularly from the Mosul district, from Thub Tiara, Tukhurna, Diza, Gaviar, Levun and Julanerik. The rest are of Persian nationality from Urumia and Salmas. All are in very poor circumstances and consumption is rife among them. They wish to return to their homes, but not under Turkish rule.

3. In Moscow there are some 4,000 of these refugees, in Petrograd some 3,000, and a similar number in Rostov. The rest are scattered about at Novocherkask, Armavir, Vladikavkaz, Krasnodar, Stavropol and Kiev.

I have, &c.

R. M. HODGSON.

W Courtney. √

10/5.

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HIGH COMMISSIONER
EGYPT
30 MAY 1924
NO 17003/4

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EASTERN (MOSUL).

CONFIDENTIAL.

[May 9.]

SECTION 1.

[E 4042/88/65]

No. 1.

High Commissioner for Irak to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.—(Communicated by Colonial Office; Received in Foreign Office, May 9.)

Bagdad, May 6, 1924.

(Telegraphic.) P.

PRINCIPLES of policy towards Assyrians detailed in your telegram of 19th January have already been communicated to Prime Minister for Council by letter, of which a copy has been sent to King Feisal. Letter contained in particular an invitation to the Irak Government to undertake to grant lands to the Assyrians on favourable terms and without charge and afford them a generous measure of liberty in management of their own local affairs. Letter explained advantages which Irak would gain by such an arrangement. Resolution accepting the proposals contained in the letter was passed by Council of Ministers on 30th April. I am forwarding by air mail copies of letter and resolution. I have satisfied myself that north of Mosul there is sufficient Government land available for all Assyrians likely to require it. On the 4th May, however, inhabitants of Kirkuk were the victims of an atrocious massacre perpetrated by Assyrian levies, which has changed whole situation. I am reporting separate lyupon this.

Above refers to your telegram of 10th April.

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HIGH COMMISSIONER
EGYPT
3 - JUL 1924
NO 17003/5

17003/5

EASTERN (Mosul).

CONFIDENTIAL.

[May 29, 1924.]

Section 1.

No. 1.

[E 4714/88/65]

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(*Received May 29.*)

Downing Street, May 29, 1924.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of Mr. Secretary MacDonald, a copy of a confidential despatch from the High Commissioner for Irak (with enclosures) on the subject of the future of the Assyrians.

I am, &c.
J. E. MASTERTON SMITH.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

Sir H. Dobbs to Mr. Thomas.

(Confidential.)

Bagdad, May 8, 1924.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to invite a reference to my telegram No. 237 dated the 6th May, 1924, concerning the future settlement of the Assyrians, and to transmit herewith copies of a letter dated the 2nd April, 1924, from the counsellor to his Excellency the High Commissioner, Bagdad, to his Excellency Jafar Pasha El Askari, President of the Council of Ministers, Bagdad, and an extract from the proceedings of the meeting of the Council of Ministers held on the 30th April, 1924.

I have, &c.
H. DOBBS,
High Commissioner for Irak.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

Mr. Davidson to Jafar Pasha El Askari.

(Confidential.)

Bagdad, April 2, 1924.

My dear Prime Minister,

I AM directed by his Excellency the High Commissioner to address you on a matter which is undoubtedly of supreme importance to the Irak State at the present juncture, namely, the position of the Assyrian people in relation to the Mosul frontier.

The British Government have had the Assyrian question under the most careful consideration for some time, not only because of the services rendered and the sacrifices made by the Assyrians for the Allied cause during the war, but also because of the importance to Irak of having on the Irak side of the frontier and attached by gratitude and loyalty to the Irak State this small but warlike people and the districts which they occupy. In negotiating the Mosul frontier, the British Government is therefore disposed to press for the frontier to be fixed as far north as possible so as to include the greater part of the Assyrian people other than those who belong to Persian districts, that is to say, so as to include the mountains occupied by the Taiyari, Tkhuma and the Jelu and Baz Assyrian tribes. The advantages of this to the Irak State need not be enlarged upon, but His Majesty's Government has also to consider the interests of the Assyrians themselves, and it cannot support Irak's claim to the extreme northern frontier unless it is assured, and can satisfy the world, that the Irak Government will do its part in assuring a prosperous future to those Assyrians who will be settled within its borders.

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HIGH COMMISSIONER
EGYPT.
1 - MAY 1927
No. 17003/6.

PASSPORT CONTROL DEPARTMENT,
Foreign Office,
March 21, 1927.

Bogus Collectors of Funds for Assyrian Refugees.

THE enclosed details of twenty-four individuals, who are reported to be engaged in the collection of funds ostensibly on behalf of the Assyrian Church, are circulated for your information and guidance. None of the persons mentioned therein should be granted visas for any British territory or afforded any kind of assistance.

It should be borne in mind that the Archbishop of Canterbury's Assyrian Committee, which collects funds for the relief of Assyrian refugees, does receive and administer money sent to it from the Continent. But most *bonâ fide* Assyrian collectors, who make use of the committee, do not handle the money they collect, but ask some prominent layman or clergyman on the Continent to receive and forward it to the Hon. Secretary of the Committee, the Rev. F. N. Heazell, St. Michael's Vicarage, Poplar Walk, Croydon.

H. E. SPENCER.

To His Majesty's Consular and
Passport Control Officers.

(V/14/1927)

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[S. 19094]

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HIGH COMMISSIONER
EGYPT.
3 - MAY 1929
No 17003/27.

PASSPORT CONTROL DEPARTMENT.

Foreign Office,

April 24, 1929.

For official use only.

www.seyfocenter.com

Bogus Collectors of Funds for Assyrian Refugees.

WITH reference to the details of twenty-four individuals who are reported to be engaged in the collection of funds ostensibly on behalf of the "Assyrian Church," circulated under cover of circular S. 19094 of the 21st March, 1927, the name of Peter Simon Joel, who appears as No. 19 on the list, should be amended to Far'on, son of Sham'un, alias Peter Simon Joel, alias Peter Simon.

H. E. SPENCER.

3/5

To His Majesty's Consular and
Passport Control Officers.

(V/16/1929)

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PEACE
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15 MAY 1919 PM

from- General Sir G.F.Milne, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O.,
Commanding-in-Chief, Army of the Black Sea.
Constantinople.

to:- The Secretary,
War Office,
London, S.W.1.

General Headquarters
CONSTANTINOPLE.
15th May, 1919.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a report from the British Political Mission at TABRIZ, dated April 30th, concerning the situation at URUMIA.

Apart from the question of repatriation of Christians, the situation appears to be one for which PERSIA alone is responsible.

With regard to Major RADIR'S recommendation for the employment of a Persian force trained and led by British officers, I consider it inadvisable that any forces of the Army of the Black Sea should be sent to URUMIA.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(signed) G.F.Milne,
General,
Commanding-in-Chief,
Army of the Black Sea.

www.seyfocenter.com

TABRIZ. 23rd April. 1919.

12685
16 JUN 19

To:- Advanced G.H.Q.,
Tiflis.

I returned from Urumia yesterday after staying there a week.

Situation there between the Muslems and Christians is most strained. The Governor - Sirdar-i-Fatih - is favourably disposed to the Christians, being an intelligent and travelled man, his brother is the present Persian Minister in Paris and he himself has been in Europe a good deal. He however has no force at his disposal to keep order. Three hundred Salmas Gowars were sent him a short time ago but of these only one hundred had rifles. There is no security of life or property even in the environs of the town and the day I travelled from Gurma, Khaneh (the port of Urumia) to Urumia the wife and family of the O.C., Police were held up and robbed on the road a few hours after I passed.

No Christian can put his nose outside Urumia and indeed it is not safe for one to go outside the yard of the American Mission. Their vineyards fields etc., therefore are to a great extent uncultivated and going to rack and ruin.

There are no Turkish troops in the district but some Turkish deserters. Simko is reported to have the majority of these with him - reports vary from 60 to 150. There are about twenty in or in the vicinity of Urumia Town.

There are many Caucasian Muslem merchants in Urumia from Nakhichevan, Erivanm Urdubad, Shusha, etc. They are Shias and therefore of the same sect and language as the Persian inhabitants but they complain bitterly of the oppression of the Persians and the total lack of order. If some improvement does not take place they state they must leave Urumia where they have been for many years and return to the Caucasus. They are strongly in favour of some British control at Urumia. The Jews also have petitioned H.M.Consul at Tabriz to take them under his protection.

Simko (a notorious Kurdish brigand who murdered Patriarch MAR SHIMOUN near DILMAN on 16.3.19. by treachery) is still at Kala Chairik - about 10 miles south west of Dilman - and is lying low. He is ready to make his peace with us or the Persian Government and to maintain order. All the neighbouring Kurds are friendly disposed to the British owing to the favourable reports of our Government from their brethren in Sulaimania etc.

The French Mission houses at Urumia are in complete ruin with blood stains to the ceiling in some rooms showing the brutal massacre enacted there. The English Mission is also in ruins. To show the bitter feeling still existing in Urumia cases have occurred lately of Muslems digging up Christian corpses, cutting off their heads, and leaving the corpses thus unburied.

Meetings are being held daily in Urumia protesting against the return of the Christians and against any foreigners coming there. Letters and telegrams are sent by these meetings to the Government at Tabriz. Sadiq-al-Mumalik and a Mujtahid named Fazululla are the ringleaders of this movement. They and some others should be deported to Teheran if peace is to be established in Urumia. This party intrigues against the Governor and does all it can to prevent peace and order being established.

One of the chief obstacles to law and order in Persian Azerbaijan is the Vali and who lives at Tabriz. He is a notorious pro-German and pro-Turk and is the rallying point for all anti-Entente influences in this province. He states he is eager to travel in Europe and it would a good thing if he were sent there or anyway away from Tabriz.

The principal Muslems of Urumia held a meeting when they knew of my arrival and pledged themselves not to call on the British representatives and therefore none but officials call.

The

The police force is, of course, purely Mohammedan and cannot be depended upon in any way in Christian versus Muslem cases. War which is probably partly due to the propaganda of the German Consul at Tabriz. The Urumia Mohammedans are ignorant of the result of the

I am of the opinion that the presence of a small Allied force at Urumia is absolutely essential if the Christians are to be repatriated and it is quite possible that the massacre of the remaining Christians may take place if this force is not sent soon. One hundred men would be sufficient as there is no one who would or could oppose an armed Allied detachment; but without such sign of our power and interest in this district thing will go from bad to worse. The lines of communication by rail Nakhichevan - Sharifkhaneh and thence by ship to Gurma - Khanch and by road (10-12 miles) to Urumia are good.

The Christians put the blame of the Urumia massacres on the Persian Muslems and not on the Kurds and Turks, although both these latter were certainly implicated.

The situation at Khoi and Salmas is similar to that of Urumia, but in the former places there are no Christians left, as any not killed have had to become nominal Mohammedans.

As regards the Ardebil side the situation is always disturbed owing to the strength and lawlessness of the Shahsevans and weakness of the Persian Government. The victory over the Jangali however will probably have a salutary effect in this connection.

To conclude, the present situation in Persian Azerbaijan is chaos, and the Persians are completely incapable of putting things in order or of maintaining order if this were effected by us. The question therefore whether Persia is capable in Persian Azerbaijan of guarding her frontiers must be answered by a decided negative and if this is to be effected it must be by a British force or by a Persian force trained and led (in the upper grades) by British officers.

(Signed) J.I. HADIE, Major,
Special Service Officer.
Hadie - Bristow Mission.

II.

I am entirely in accord with Major Hadie's views as above expressed concerning the inability of Persia to protect her frontiers and also as to the absolute necessity of sending British troops to Urumia if the refugees are to return there in safety and if order is to be preserved there.

(Signed) ERNEST BRISTOW.
H.M.Consul, Tabriz.
Hadie - Bristow Mission.

Issued by G.S."I". Army of the Black Sea.

13.5.19.

Copies to:-

War Office	
G.S."O".	2
G.S.O. (Naval).	1
Military Attache to H.M.the High Commissioner	1
File	1
	1

Registry No. 14720.

Received. July 8.

Writer. Boghos Nubar Pasha & Rustem Nedjib.

Date. July 7, 1919.

Pol.: Turkey & Middle East.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Boghos Nubar Ed. No. 1274 July 11

(File No.) 342 | 12 | 2

(Last Paper.) 12685

(Action completed.) P.H.

(Index.)

(Next Paper.) 14862

(Docket.)

Alleged impending massacre of Assyrian & Armenian Christians in Ourmia.

Transmits copy of telegram received from Armenian & Assyro-Chaldean representatives of Ourmia, calling attention to serious danger of fresh massacres to which Christian population of the place is exposed, & requesting that tel. be communicated to Dr. Yonan, American Consulate. Boghos Nubar & Rustem Nedjib invoke the assistance of the British Delegation.

(Minutes.)

This was foreseen by the American British mission at Tabriz (see 12685) but I do not see what can be done beyond representations to the Persian Govt.

(Copy F.O. with a copy of 12685

I suggest that matter might be taken up with Mr. P. Cox.

E.J. Adam July 8.

Robert Lansing July 9

www.aevfocenter.com

Délégation Nationale
Arménienne

12, Avenue du Président Wilson

Téléphone: Passy 39-85

128

Paris, le 7 Juillet 1919

14720
8 JUL 19 A.M.

Dear Sir,

We have the honor of submitting the copy of a telegram which we have received from the Armenian and Assyro-Chaldean representatives of Ourmia.

The telegram calls attention to the serious danger of massacre to which the Christian population of the place is exposed.

We beg of you to take such measures as you consider best for the protection of our compatriots in distress.

Believe us Dear Sir

Yours very faithfully

Rustem Nejib
Délégué
Assyro Chaldéene

Président de la
Délégation Nationale
Arménienne.

To the Honorable
President of British
Delegation to the Peace Conference

Paris

COPY

Armenian National Delegation

Paris

1720
8 JUE. 19 A.M.

Tauris - I08 - 45 - 7 - 8,30 - MTE

Another massacre of christian women and children Ourmias remnant in imminent danger. Assyrian and Armenian peoples beg your immediate help, delay fatal, refugees still Bakouba. Please communicate to Doctor Yonan American Consulate.

Armenian and Assyrian Representatives

Bishop Nercès Lazar Ellia

www.seyfocenter.com

DELEGATION NATIONALE
ARMENIENNE.

PARIS, le 7 Juillet, 1919.

12, Avenue du Président Wilson,

Dear Sir,

We have the honour of submitting the copy of a telegram which we have received from the Armenian and Assyro-Chaldean representatives of Ourmia.

The telegram calls attention to the serious danger of massacre to which the Christian population of the place is exposed.

We beg of you to take such measures as you consider best for the protection of our compatriots in distress.

Believe us Dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

Rustem Nedjib,
Delegué
Assyro Chaldéene.

(Sd.) Boghos Nubar.
Président de la
Délégation Nationale Arménienne.

Honourable
nt of British Delegation to the Peace Conference, Paris.

(14720)

210

211

Armenian National Delegation,

Paris.

is,

919.

Tauris - 108 - 45 - 7 - 8,30 - MTE.

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Please communicate to Doctor Yonan American Consulate.

Armenian and Assyrian Representatives

Bishop Nercès Lazar Ellia.

Balfour

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10-342/12/2

Reg. No. 14720.

Draft

Yoghos Nubar Pasha,
Délégation Nationale Arménienne,
12, Avenue du Président
Wilson,
PARIS.

British Delegation, 211
Paris,
July 11, 1919.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Balfour to refer to your Note of July 7th enclosing a copy of a telegram from the Armenian and Assyro-Chaldean representatives of Ourmia regarding the situation in that district, and to inform you that this Delegation are communicating urgently with the Foreign Office in London on the subject.

I have &c.
July 10.

(Signed) EYRE A. CROWE.

www.seyfocenter.com

10-342/12/2/14720

July 11th 1919.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Balfour to refer to your Note of July 7th enclosing a copy of a telegram from the Armenian and Assyro-Chaldean representatives of Ourmia regarding the situation in that district, and to inform you that this Delegation are communicating urgently with the Foreign Office in London on the subject.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

(Signed) EYRE A. CROWE.

His Excellency,

Boghos Nubar Pasha,

Délégation Nationale Arménienne,

etc., etc., etc.

Government.

H.J. Adam

July 10.

www.seyfocenter.com

www.seyfocenter.com

10-342/12/2

Reg. No. 14720.

Draft

Foreign Office.

no. 1274

Armenian Delegation. 7th July.

Genl. Milne. 15th May

British Delegation,
Paris,
July 11, 1919.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a note from the Armenian Delegation signed by Boghos Nubar Pasha and Rustem Nedjib, delegate of ~~the~~ an Assyro-Chaldean Delegation here, regarding the danger of massacres at Ourmia.

A copy of a report from General Milne to the War Office, communicated by the Military Section here is also transmitted herewith for convenience of reference.

As it appears impossible to take any action in the matter through British Military forces, I venture to suggest for Your Lordship's consideration that the report should be referred to H.M. Minister at Tehran for any action which it may be possible to take through the Persian Government.

G. J. Adam
July 10.

(for Mr. BALFOUR)
(Signed) EYRE A. CROWE.

No. 1274
10-342/12/2/14720.

July 11th, 1919.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a note from the Armenian Delegation signed by Boghos Nubar Pasha and Rustem Nedjib, delegate of an Assyro-Chaldean Delegation here, regarding the danger of massacres at Ourmia.

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Iam, with great truth and respect,
Your Lordship's,
most obedient,
humble Servant,
(for Mr. BALFOUR).

(Signed) EYRE A. CROWE.

July 10

The Right Honourable,
The Earl Curzon of Kedleston, K.G., P.C.,
etc. etc. etc.

(Office No.) 342/12/2
(Last Papers) 14720

www.seyfocenter.com

(Docket.)

Registry No. 14862.

Received. July 10.

Writer. G.H.Q., Constantinople to W.O., Com. by Military Section, I.6419 (tel.) July 2,1919.

Date.

Pol.: Turkey & Middle East.

Removal of Christians from Urumiyah.

Gives text of telegram received from Gen. Beach, Tabriz, dated July 1:-

All Christians of Urumiyah amounting to 630 persons who include Dr. Packhard & party with exception of a few women kept in Mohommedan houses, have been safely evacuated by American Consul. Latter had considerable difficulty in getting them away, as inhabitants regarded their presence as form of safeguard against Kurdish vengeance.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

Sir Eyre Crowe

This is very satisfactory and indicates what can be done by energetic American action unsupported by British troops.

DMI.
10.7.19.

J Thwaites
May Emerl

AC
July 10

(File No.) 342/12/2

(Last Paper.) 14720

(Action completed.) PH.

(Index.)

(Next Paper.) 16990

www.seyfocenter.com

From:- G.H.Q. Constantinople.

To:- War Office.

14862
10 JUL 19 AM

Desp. 15.26. 3.7.19.
Recd. 12.00. 4.7.19.

I.6419 2nd July.

Following from General Beach Tabriz S.12. July 1st. Begins:- All Christians of Urumiyah (amounting to 630 and including Doctor Peckhard and party) except a few women (? who are) kept in Mohometan houses have been conveyed safely to (1 group undec.) (? by the) American Consul who had considerable difficulty in getting them away as the inhabitants regarded their presence as a kind of safeguard against Kurdish vengeance.

(Docket.)

Alleged Desire of Kurds for Urumia.

Transmits copy of Tehran tel. No. 453 of July 1 to F.O., addressed to Baghdad No. 238, in which Sir P. Cox states that he is informed by Persian Govt. that Simko(who represents Kurdish aspirations)as well as moving spirits of Armenian State,both covet Urumia. One of Simko's head men is reported to have said that this district was essential to existence of Kurds. It is considered that message from Baghdad Administration through Saiyid Taha to Simko stating that H.M.G. do not intend to support them against Persian Govt. would be useful. Enquires whether Baghdad Administration approve.

No. 14990.
July 11.
Writer. F.O.
4638.
July 10,1919.
Pol.: Turkey & Middle East.

(Print.)

(Minutes.)

Military Section. Dft 12/7

C.J. Adam
July 11

X Robert Vansittart
July 11

(How disposed of.)

(File No.)
342 | 12 | 2

191 1919

POLITICAL. TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST

Registry No. 14990.

Received. July 11.

Writer. F.O.

4638.

Date. July 10,1919.

Subject: pol.: Turkey & Middle East.

(Docket.)

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(Print.)

(Minutes.)

Military Sec. Liaison. Dft 12/7

C.J. Adam July 11

X Robert Vansittart July 11

(How disposed of.)

(File No.) 342 | 12 | 2

(Last Paper.) (14862)

(Action completed.) P.W.

(Index.)

(Next Paper.) 15951

www.seyfocenter.com

191 1919

POLITICAL. TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST

Registry No. 14990.

Received. July 11.

Writer. F.O.

4638.

Date. July 10,1919.

Subject: Pol.: Turkey & Middle East.

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(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

Military Secretary. Dft 12/7

C. J. Oldham July 11

X Robert Vansittart July 11

(File No.) 342 | 12 | 2

(Last Paper.) (14862)

(Action completed.) P.W.

(Index.)

(Next Paper.) 15951

14990
11 JUL 19 A.M.

Immediate and Confidential.
No. 4638.
(48746/1034/1919)

Reference to previous correspondence: To / From *Foreign Office.*

LORD CURZON OF KEDLESTON presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit the accompanying copies of a telegram, as marked in the margin.

Tehran 453 of July 6

Foreign Office,
July 10, 1919.

Simla: letter sent to D. M. I.
9.0.

Office for information.

(6.7 8-4)

(Last Paper.) (14990)
(Action completed.) S.H.
(Index.)
(Next Paper.) 4667

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14990
11 JUL 19 A.M.

PERSIA

POLITICAL

Decypher. Sir P. Cox (Teheran). 1st July 1919.
D. 4.30 p.m. 1st July 1919.
R. 11.5 a.m. 6th

No. 453.

0:0:0:0:0:0:0:0

Persian Government having informed me that Sim(?ko) as representing Kurdish aspirations and moving spirits fof embryo Armenian State both had covetous eyes on Urumia and its fertile plain I asked Bristow's views on this theory and he replies that one of Sim(?ko')s head men confided to United States Consul that Urumia was absolutely necessary for Kurd's existence.

Persian Government have asked for our cooperation in matter (?and it) is considered that a word from Bagdad administration through Saiyid Taha to Sim(?ko) to effect that we had no intention of supporting them against Persian Government or integrity of Persia would be useful.

Are you prepared to give (?it)?

Addressed to Bagdad No. 238 repeated to Foreign Office for information.

(6.7 8-4)

(Last Paper.)
(14990)
(Action completed)

PEACE CONGRESS.

1x 220

E 1919

POLITICAL TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST

(Docket.)

Situation at Urmia.

Refers to Delegation desp. No. 1274 of July 11, & transmits copies of:-

(1) Letter of July 8 from D.M.I. enclosing copy of tel. of July 3 from G.H.Q., Constantinople, reporting withdrawal of Christian population of Urmia to place of safety.

(2) Copy of tel. from G.H.Q., Constantinople, to W.O. dated June 28 stating that Gen. Beach with one company of Indian Infantry & machine guns has been despatched to Tabriz to enquire into unrest in Urmia district.

Registry No. 15951.
Received July 23.
Writer. F.O.
4845.
July 21, 1919.
Pol.: Turkey & Middle East.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Boghos Nubar July 24

(Minutes.)

In form the Armenian Delegation General Beach's of the Telegram of July 8th ref. 14720.

Eq. J Adam July 23

Robert Vansittart July 23

(File No.) 342 | 12 | 2

(Last Paper.) (14990)

(Action completed.) E.H.

(Index.)

(Next Paper.) 4467

www.seyfocenter.com

FOREIGN OFFICE, July 21st, 1919.

15951
23 JUL 19 A.M.

221

No. 4845.
(101989/W/34)

14720

Sir:-

In reply to your despatch No.1274 of the 11th instant regarding the situation at Urmia, I have the honour to transmit to you herein a copy of a letter from the Director of Military Intelligence enclosing a copy of a telegram from General Headquarters, Constantinople, reporting the withdrawal of the Christian population of Urmia to a place of safety.

2. I also transmit a copy of a telegram received by the War Office from General Headquarters, Constantinople, reporting the despatch of General Beach with one company of Indian infantry and machine guns to Tabriz to enquire into the situation at Urmia.

I have the honour to be
with the highest respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient
humble Servant,
(For Earl Curzon of Kedleston)

Gerald Spicer

The Right Honourable
A.J. Balfour, O.M., M.P.
&c., &c., &c.

www.seyfocenter.com

B.I/3816 (M.I.2.)

8th July, 1919.

15951
23 JUL 19 A.M.

222

The Director of Military Intelligence presents his compliments to the Acting Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and with reference to his letter No.3816 dated 25th June, regarding the situation at Urumiyah, begs to enclose herewith a further telegram No.I.6419 dated 2nd July 1919, on the subject from General Headquarters, Constantinople.

The Acting Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

www.seyfocenter.com

From:- G.H.Q. Constantinople. 223

To:- War Office.

Desp. 15.26. 3.7.19.
Recd. 12.00. 4.7.19.

I.6419 2nd July.

Following from General Beach Tabriz S.12. July 1st. Begins:- All Christians of Urumiyah (amounting to 630 and including Doctor Packhard and party) except a few women (? who are) kept in Mohometan houses have been conveyed safely to (1 group undec.) (? by the) American Consul who had considerable difficulty in getting them away as the inhabitants regarded their presence as a kind of safeguard against Kurdish vengeance.

Persia.

15951
23 JUL 19 A.M.

www.seyfocenter.com

PARAPHRASE.

OPERATIONS. SECRET.

Despatched 1535 28/6/19.
Received 1115 1/7/19.

From:- G.W. Constantinople.

To:- War Office.

G.C.3. June 27th.

Have despatched General Beach at once to Tabriz to enquire into unrest of Urumia district. 1 Company of Indian Infantry with Machine Guns is escorting him.

www.seyfocenter.com

225

British Delegation,
Paris,
July 24, 1919.

10-342/12/2

Reg. No. 15951.

Draft

Joseph

Bros Nubar Pasha,
Délégation Nationale Arménienne,
12, Av. de Président Wilson,
PARIS.

Your Excellency,

With reference to my note of July 11th regarding the situation in the district of Urmia, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Balfour to inform you that a report has been received from General Beach at Tabriz dated July 1st stating that all Christians of Urmia amounting to 630, with a few exceptions, have been conveyed safely away by the American Consul.

E.J. Adam
July 24.

I am,

Your Excellency's
most obedient
humble servant

(Signed) EYRE A. CROWE.

www.seyfocenter.com

Doc dated

27114

(10-342/12/2/15951). July 24th, 1919.

Your Excellency,

With reference to my note of July 11th regarding the situation in the district of Urmia, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Balfour to inform you that a report has now been received from General Beach at Tabriz dated July 1st stating that all Christians of Urmia amounting to 630, with a few exceptions, have been conveyed safely away by the American Consul.

I am,

Your Excellency,

your most obedient,

humble Servant,

(Signed) EYRE A. CROWE.

His Excellency
Boghos Nubar Pasha,
Délégation Nationale Arménienne,
12, Av. de Président Wilson,
PARIS.

PEACE CONGRESS.

227114

C. 191 1919

POLITICAL. TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST

(Docket.)

Registry No. 16638

Received. July 30.

Writer. F.O.

5092

Date. July 29, 1919.

Pol.:Turkey & M.E.

Situation in Kurdistan.

Refers to Delegation despatch No.1274 of July 11 and transmits copy of tel.No.492 of July 21 from Sir P.Cox,Teheran, referring to his tel.No.453 and to Baghdad reply in tels.Nos.7432 & 7589 repeated to I.O.

Policy of Rowanijuz contemplates severance of Persian Kurds from Persia. Points out that H.M.G's support to such severance would not be in accordance with their repeated undertakings to respect integrity of Persia.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

X

G.J. Adam
July 30

X Robert Vansittart
July 31

(File No.) 342/12/2

(Last Paper.) (16647)

(Action completed.) P.H.

(Index.)

(Next Paper.)

www.sevfocenter.com

www.seyfocenter.com

16
30 JUL
16638
30 JUL 19 AM

Immediate and Confidential.

(No. 106469 / H34.)

No 5092

Reference to previous correspondence: *To* / ~~*From*~~ *Foreign Office.*

No. 1974. July. 11.

14720 / 342/12/2

LORD CURZON OF KEDLESTON presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit the accompanying copies of a telegram, as marked in the margin.

Foreign Office,

July. 99., 1919.

P.C. 15—1414 500 7 | 19

to respect integrity of Serbia.

[This Document is the Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government, and should be returned to the Foreign Office if not required for official use.]

19 AM

PERSIA.

POLITICAL.

Decypher. Sir P. Cox (Teheran). 21st July 1919.

D. 4.p.m. 21st July 1919.

R. 9.40.p.m. 23rd July 1919.

No. 492.

.....

14990

Please see my telegram 453 and Baghdad's reply 7432 and 7589 repeated to India Office.

It will be seen that (? politics of) Rowanijuz frankly contemplates severance of Persian Kurds from Persia.

I am aware of great complexity and difficulty of Kurdish question but in handling it His Majesty's Government will not fail to (? see) how ill our support of such a severance would square with our repeated undertakings to respect integrity of Persia.

.....

5951

(Action completed.)

PEACE CONGRESS.

C 191 1919

114 230

POLITICAL. TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST

(Docket.)

Evacuation of Christians from Urmia.

Registry No. 16647.

Registered. 30th July, 1919.

Writer. Boghos Nubar Pasha.

Refers to Delegation reply to his letter of July 7 & thanks Delegation for information of safe evacuation of these Christians through the American Consulate.

July 28th, 1919.

Pol. Turkey & M. E.

(Print.)

(Minutes.)

X

C.J.D. Adam
July 30

(How disposed of.)

(File No.) 342/12/2

(Last Paper.) 15951

(Action completed.) 31/7.

(Index.) 1918

(Last Paper.) (16638)

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DÉLÉGATION
DE L'ARMÉNIE INTÉGRALE

Adresse Télégraphique
DELEGARMEN-PARIS

Téléphone : PASSY 39-85

12, AVENUE DU PRÉSIDENT WILSON

231

Paris, le 28 Juillet 1919

30 JUL 19 A.M.

Monsieur le Président,

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de la lettre par laquelle, en réponse à ma lettre du 7 Juillet, vous avez bien voulu me faire savoir que six cent trente chrétiens d'Ourmia ont été emmenés en sûreté par les soins du Consulat Américain.

Je vous exprime mes plus vifs remerciements pour cette communication et vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Président, l'assurance de ma plus haute considération.

Le Président

Monsieur le Président
de la Délégation Britannique

Paris

(File No.) 342/12/3

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TURKISH AND EGYPTIAN INTRIGUES IN VIENNA. 289

Vienna,

May 22nd, 1919.

12634
10 JUN 19 A.M.

A Madame Rifaat Bey, a Turkish subject, who has divorced her husband and is now living in Vienna, visited this Office on the 21st instant with the object of giving certain information concerning Egyptian and young Turk intrigues now taking place in Vienna.

Madame Rifaat Bey's former husband belongs to the Turkish Liberal Party and was forced by the young Turks to leave Constantinople during the War, and took refuge with his wife in Vienna.

Madame Rifaat Bey shares the Political views of her husband and during the interview made very bitter remarks against the young Turks.

She stated that the young Turks and Egyptians now living in Vienna, are holding frequent meetings at the house of a certain Turk named Ismail Hakki, Lothringerstrasse 16. The object of these meetings is to make plans for the overthrow of British rule in Egypt, India, Mesopotamia and Palestine. The ringleaders are the Turk Ismail Hakki and an Egyptian named Muhib Pacha of Margaretenstrasse 22. These men are stated to be in close touch with the German Government. Madame Rifaat Bey also gave information about a certain Haider Bey a former Turkish Consul at Galatz. It appears that Haider Bey acted as a Turkish Courrier in February last visiting Berlin, Vienna and Budapest. During his stay in Vienna he lived at Ismail Hakki's apartment.

In addition Madame Rifaat Bey stated that if a search could be made of the house of a Captain Aumann in Berlin and Professor Sarre of Kaiserstrasse Potsdam,

valuable

valuable information concerning the present unrest in Egypt and India would be found. Captain Humann according to Madame Rifaat Bey was Von Hintze's A.D.C. Humann's sister is now living at Professor Barre's house in Potsdam.

1919

E 191 .

PEACE CONGRESS.

POLITICAL TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST

291

Registry No. 12723.

Received. June 16th.

Writer. M. August Pictet.

No.

Date. June 10th 1919.

Pol.: Turkey & Middle East.

(Docket.)

Overtures from Talaat Pasha.

States that former Consul-General of Turkey, cousin to Talaat Pasha & coming direct from Berlin, has made overtures to certain N.F. in Geneva known to the F.O. He proposed mission of an envoy to Talaat Pasha in Berlin. Latter is evidently anxious to reinstate himself with H.M.G. Ex-Turkish Consul-General also alleged that he was in possession of important information regarding Pan-Islamic propaganda. M. Pictet could if desired give verbal report of information received by N.F.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

M. Pictet

June 19.

(Minutes.)

Sir L. Mallet.

I do not know the writer. Is any answer to be returned. (See end of letter)

Mr Campbell.

I also do not know M. P. but if he has communicated with Mr Kerr on the subject of Panislamism in Egypt etc. we sh? certainly have a copy in the Dept. where we c? check the information.

Robert Graves

Mr Campbell & I & Mr Graves have interviewed the writer who appears to be a first-class bore. I do not think there is any use in following it up. Please return & will ack.

L. Mallet.

(File No.) 344 | 2 | 3

(Last Paper.) (12634)

(Action completed.) RH.

(Index.)

(Next Paper.) 4062

Cor.
(145672).

318

C.X.079326/C.
P.E./797.

POLITICAL - SWITZERLAND.

GENEVA, 9.10.19.

TURKISH NOTES FROM LAUSANNE.

Source:- R.Q. These Notes are from a new source, the reliability of which has not yet been fully tested.

(1) Regarding Lutfi Bey, I hear on very good authority that he is no longer here but has been for some time in Constantinople, where he is intriguing to obtain the appointment of Consul at Geneva. He has nothing whatever to do with Munir Pacha, they are in fact mortal enemies since the affair of the Foyer Musulman, in which Lutfi posing as a friend of the ex-Khedive managed to compromise German subsidies for the organisation; small payments were made by the Germans but Lutfi spent them all and no work was done. Munir for this reason is no longer in good repute with the Turkish colony.

---

(2) James A.Farrell, President of the U.S.Steel trust and Chairman of the National Foreign Trade Council of New York, is now giving considerable attention to the Easterm question and is contemplating the publication in Constantinople of a paper in the American interest.

The firm of Morgan has also been approached by the Turks. Both these have been sounded by CHEVKY Bey, acting on behalf of DJAVID.

The/

The idea is that American capital should acquire a controlling interest in the railway systems existing in the Balkans and Asia Minor. Certain monopolies are also suggested.

This flirting with American business interests is conducted in conjunction with intrigues tending to a rapprochement with France.

It is claimed that the negotiations now pending between Austrian banks and French financial groups regarding the controlling interest in the Chemins de fer Orientaux, is also the work of Djavid.

---

(3) Turkish Nationalists are reported to be trying to enlist the help of the Jesuits through intermediaries in Fribourg, in respect of religious institutions in the Near East.

(4) In Turkish circles here(Lausanne), Rechid Safvet Bey is considered as an English agent and his work has consequently little importance. (This is of interest as though he occasionally helped us, he worked chiefly against us).

The position is that the old Turks have left, that the students, Turc-yourdu, alone have claims to activity in the Nationalist interest. They are generally speaking Francophile.

Some assert that Lausanne is not in any way a centre of interest, yet I know that Col.Pajot (French M.A.) called on Peron, Chancellor of the Consulate here and a well known Oriental expert with instructions to devote his time to Eastern intelligence.

(5)/

(5) 6.10.19. The news in todays papers (fall of Damad Farid's Government), has stirred Nationalist circles in Lausanne and in the absence of the chief leaders Karoum, Ali Chevky, and Mehmed Said had a meeting at Naffiliar house to discuss the situation. MEHMED SAID is the almost official representative here of MUSTAPHA KAMAL.

It is expected that the Sultan will call on Mustapha Kamal to act as Grand Vizir. Kamal was A.D.C. until latterly and has been working hand in hand with the Padishah. There is no truth in the rumour that a republic will be proclaimed, and Said asserts that Kamal's forces are not directed against the 20,000 French, or the 5 or 6,000 English there. He has 140,000 men and intends merely to make a demonstration against the Italians at ADALIA. The feeling is particularly intense against the Italians and Greeks so Kamal's action will be considered essentially patriotic and Nationalist. He has no intention of jeopardising the future by useless demonstrations against England and France. Regarding ENVER Pacha they claim that he is working entirely independently and they doubt if he really has any forces at all, if he has they will be used only for his own safety. Kamal is determined to have Enver's life. On this particular point Nationalists here are of one mind, even Talaat and other pro-German Turks agreeing with Kamal.

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(6) There is no truth in the rumour of a general conference of the Young Turk party from all Central Europe

at/

321

at Lausanne. The story probably was put about by the Turkish Minister at Berne, or the mere presence of Djavid may have inspired it.

M.I.l.c. Copies to:-

F.O.

D.M.I.

Sir B.Thomson

22.10.19. J.A.W.

Cairo.

Constantinople.

www.seyfocenter.com

1919.

Registry No. 1707

Received. Feb.10th 1919.

Writer. Foreign Office

423

Letter. Feb.6th 1919.

Pol: Middle East.

(Docket.)

Protest from Turks in Caucasus against Armenian atrocities.

Transmits (1) copy of Constantinople despatch No.42 of Jan.10th 1919, enclosing protest from Turks in Caucasus, who state that various outrages have been committed against them by the Armenians. They demand either to be handed over to protection of Ottoman Government or failing this to be granted autonomous administration in districts occupied by Turks in Caucasus. They threaten offensive measures against Armenians. (2) Despatch from F.O. to D.M.I. enclosing above Constantinople despatch, and recommending that Gen. Thwaites should telegraph to Military Authorities in Caucasus for circulation, recent resolution of Peace Conference regarding prejudice to territorial claims of forcible acts.

(Print.)

(Minutes.)

X

G.J. Inbs Adam
Feb. 10

Seen
W Llewellyn Wood 13.2.19

FO 608/84/21

(How disposed of.)

(File No.)
347/1/11

(Last Paper.)

(Action completed.)
P.H.

(Index.)
WW.

(Next Paper.)
5011

Copy.

No.42/1245.

(12912)

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION,
CONSTANTINOPLE,
January 10th, 1919.

1707
10 FEB 19 A.M.

Sir:-

I have the honour to forward herewith for your information a translation of a telegram received from Kars, protesting against atrocities alleged to have been committed by Armenians against Musulmans.

I am sending a copy to the General Officer Commanding in Chief, British Salonika Forces.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) C. Calthorpe.

HIGH COMMISSIONER.

The Right Honourable

A.J. Balfour, M.P. O.M.,

etc., etc., etc.

www.seyfocenter.com

COPY. TRANSLATION.

1707

10 FEB 19 A.M.

Telegram from Kars dated 1st January 1918, signed "EMIR", President of the National Assembly in the name of the Population of Kars, Batoum, Ardahan, Igdi, Kadjarli, Natcheven, and Kaginaman.

"We welcomed the end of the Universal War as the symbol of the deliverance and welfare of humanity and we rejoiced in the fact that the Powers who had fought for the right and the protection of nations would also think of us. Unfortunately, we have been disappointed in our hopes. The Armenians who, owing to their ferocious character, have not been able to accustom themselves to the principles of humanity, are not content with the blood that has flowed from us for four years but continue their unequalled atrocities in the neighbourhood of Arras which has been evacuated by the Ottoman Army. Not only have they killed the Musulmans of the districts of Katcharli, Zengui, Bassar, and Oulen by bombs and gunfire, but they have burnt the greater part of them alive. They have carried away young and pretty girls by force, and have taken them to Erivan. Some of them were violated in our meadjids. They found their way into the house of a Musulman at Alexandropol and cut his family consisting of seven persons to pieces. We, who amongst the different nations that go to the making up of humanity and are guilty of no other fault than that of being Musulmans and Turks, cannot imagine a conscience that would not be revolted at the sight of such oppression. In consequence we address

ourselves

ourselves to the human sentiment of the civilized world and we demand:-

1st.....To be handed over to the protection of the Ottoman Government to which we are bound by race and religion.

2nd.....In the case of this being impossible for some reason or another, to be granted an independent and autonomous administration in the districts occupied by the Turks in the Caucasus.

In the case of non-adherence to these two eventualities the three million Turks of the Caucasus will be forced, in order to safeguard their lives and national existence to defend themselves against the Armenians so long as one Turk is alive, and for the blood thus spilt the responsibility will be on the head of the civilised world.

(12912/W/58)

The Acting Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Director of Military Intelligence, and begs leave to transmit, herewith, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's High Commissioner at Constantinople enclosing a translation of a telegram relative to alleged atrocities by Armenians against Turks.

Sir R. Graham is of opinion that the widest publicity should be given in the Caucasus to the recent resolution of the Peace Conference to the effect that territorial claims will only be prejudice by acts of forcible seizure, and he ventures to suggest that Major-General Thwaites should telegraph the text of the resolution to the Military Authoritie in the Caucasis with instructions to make it as widel known as possible.

FOREIGN OFFICE,

~~January 31st~~, 1919.

Feb. 5th

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No.236
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(File No.)
347 | 1 | 1

191 1919

Registry No. 8011.

Received. April 2nd.

Writer. F.O.

No. 1862.

Date. April 1st 1919.

Pol.: Turkey & Middle East.

(Print.)

Printed Matter to be Printed

Treaty 5.7.21

229 (6), P 235 (23)

(How disposed of.)

(Docket.)

Alleged Armenian Atrocities against the Turks at Erzeroum.

Transmits copy of Admiral Webb's despatch No.236 of Feb. 26th, enclosing in original annex A. of Memo. of Feb. 12th 1919. These are extracts from notes made by Col. Khlebof, Commanding Russian Fortress Artillery in Erzeroum until its re-capture by the Turks in Feb. 1918. He accuses the Armenians of cowardice in battle, & details numerous instances of their savagery & brutality towards the Turks in this district. Previous to the Revolution Russian Garrison of Erzeroum had forbidden presence of Armenians in the town, but after the Revolution these orders were revoked, & the Armenians though prevented by the Russians from committing crimes in public, perpetrated murder & brigandage in secret

(Minutes.)

A.G.I. 3.4.19.

I think this should be recorded

W.M. Graham Lt Col.

8.4.19

A.G.I. 11.4.19.

P. 229. (6.)
P. 235 (23) E. Townsend.
5/7/21.

In Library.

(File No.) 347 | 1 | 1

(Last Paper.) 1707

(Action completed.) P.A.

(Index.)

(Next Paper.) 7843 Treaties 385/1/8 6946

No. 1862
(47310/ME.)
44

6011
2 APR 19 A.M.

www.seyfocenter.com

EARL CURZON OF KEDLESTON presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith for Mr. Balfour's consideration copy of the under-mentioned paper

Foreign Office,

~~March~~ April 1, 1919.

Reference to previous despatch:

From Foreign Office:
To

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Constantinople No. 236. Feb. 26. with enclosure "Annexe A" in original	Documents for Peace Conference

(Similar letter sent to)

DUPLICATE

Copy to WO (Qu Gen) 17-4

British High Commission
Constantinople.
26th February 1919

011

No 236/1289

345

6346
385/1/18

47310 6011

26 MAR 19 2 APR 19 A.M.

Sir,

Enclosures

In continuation of my despatch No 163/1289 of the 16th inst, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith further documents which I have received from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs for presentation to the Peace Conference at Paris.

I am forwarding the documents entirely without prejudice, and just as I receive them. I am not keeping a copy here, but am merely performing the office of a forwarding agent.

The documents are probably quite superfluous, as I think it probable that you are fully informed from the best sources as to the matters of which they profes to treat. It appears to me, however, only strictly jus to allow the Turkish Government to present to the Peac Conference any views which they may desire to urge.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) RICHARD WEBB

1 HIGH COMMIS

The Right Honourable

A. J. Balfour, M.P., O.M.,

etc, etc.,

www.seyfocenter.com

1919

Registry No. 7843.

Received April 21st.

Writer. F.O.

No. 2356.

Date. April 18th 1919.

Pol.: Turkey & Middle East.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Pol. to D.M.I.

(Docket.)

Alleged Molestation of Turks by Armenians.

Transmits Constantinople despatch No.401, forwarding:-
(1) Letter from Turkish M.F.A., giving details of cases in which Ottoman soldiers have been molested by Armenians in the Taurus.
(2) Letter from Turkish & Kurdish inhabitants of Ourfa, protesting against the proposal to separate them from Turkey, & complaining that the local brigands are assisted by British officers.

(Minutes.)

✓
D.M.I.

A.G.I. 21.4.4.

~~Pol~~ ✓ Sir H. McMahon, Amy
✓ Comm. Hogarth.

(File No.)
347 1 1

No. 2356

(5843)/4.E.18

7843
21 APR 19 A.M.

EARL CURZON OF KEDLESTON presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith for Mr. Balfour's consideration copy of the under-mentioned paper

Foreign Office,
April. 18. , 1919.

Reference to previous despatch:

From
To Foreign Office:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Admt Webb Constantinople No. 401. March 27	Alleged Molestation of Armenians by Turks

(Similar letter sent to D. of I.)

DUPLICATE

361

British High Commission,
Constantinople,
27th March 1919.

No.401/1159.

58433
15 APR 1919
7843
21 APR 19 A.M.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith for your information a copy of a letter No. 14525 dated 20th March 1919, which has been received from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the alleged molestation of Turks by Armenians in the Taurus Region, and also a copy of a letter from Ourfa dated 12th March which was received through the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, with no covering letter, stating that the Turks and Kurds of Ourfa object to being detached from Turkey, and complaining that help is being given to the local brigands by British Officers.

Enclosures 2.

Copies have been sent to General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) RICHARD WEBB.

HIGH COMMISSIONER.

H.M.Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs.

www.seyfocenter.com

Le Département de la Guerre communique l'énuméré d'un certain nombre de nouvelles molestations dont ont été victimes dans le Taurus, des soldats ottomans de la part de soldats arméniens.

1. Moustafa fils de Koundakdji Hassan, de Tchiné, de la 4 ème compagnie de mitrailleuses du 1er bataillon du 24 ème régiment, a été dépouillé à Islahié, par les soldats arméniens, de 20 Ltqs. en papier-monnaie.

2. Le sergeant Moustafa fils de Moustafa Hadji Kiahia, originaire de Guerdoss, employé à l'Hôpital de campagne No. 18 de la 5 ème division, a été battu à Bouzanti par les soldats arméniens et dépouillé de 15 Ltqs. en billets et 12 Ltqs. en or.

3. Hassandjik Oghlou Osman, originaire du village Torgoudli près de Magnésie, du 1er bataillon d'artillerie de la 5 ème division a été dépouillé à Bouzanti de 10 Ltqs. en billets, 5 Médjidiéh en argent et de sa capote militaire.

4. Hassan fils de Aiache Mehmed de Afion-Karahissar, division 5, Régiment 5, 2 ème compagnie, a été dépouil lé à Bouzanti de 3 Ltqs. en billets et 2 Ltqs. en or.

5. Youssouf fils de Gulchen du village Buvé de Sandikli, soldat de la compagnie 1, du bat. 3. du Reg. No 24, a été dépouillé à Bouzanti de 26 Ltqs. en billets, de 66⅔ Médjidié en argent, de 3 Ltqs. en or et a été frappé.

6. Le caporal Kiamil Reg. No. 24, bat. 3. compagnie 9, a été attaqué à Bouzanti par des soldats arméniens portant l'uniforme britannique et a été dépouillé de 30 Médjidié en argent.

Constantinople le 20 Mars 1919.

COPY.

363

Au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères.

Ourfa, 12 Mars 1335.

Nous ne doutons point que ceux qui font répandre des bruits de nature à nous faire perdre l'espoir de rester attachés à l'ottomanisme auquel nous sommes fiers d'appartenir depuis 700 ans et de l'égide de justice, et d'amour duquel nous ne voulons point être privés, et qui travaillent à nous détacher de l'Empire Ottoman en nous annexant à la Gilicie, seront complètement déçus dans leurs plans.

58433
15 APR 1919

Malgré les agissements et les mensonges de cette espèce qui se trament dans l'ombre, nous les chefs kurdes et turcs qui virons dans le Liva d'Ourfa nous avons conservé notre fermeté et notre calme. Cependant, le nommé Servitchli Boutros recherché par la justice pour brigandage, fort de ses rapports continuels avec les officiers anglais et grâce à la complicité de quelques individus s'est livré à des attaques et même a commis des assassinats, ce qui a produit une impression pénible dans l'opinion publique. Nous frétrissons ces actes avec un profond dégoût et vous déclarons avec l'entière sincérité de notre conscience, au nom d'une population de 150,000 âmes, que notre volonté est de rester ottomans et que nous ne reculerons à cet effet devant aucun sacrifice.

Le Mufti d'Ourfa: Hassan
Le Président de la municipalité Hadji Ahmed
Le Mufti du Caza de Servich Abbas
Les membres du conseil administratif: Cheikh Muslim
Said Mehmed.

Les membres du conseil municipal: Ali
Abdul Rahman
Ibrahim
Salim
Essad
Kiamil
Ali
Said
Ali
Hayali
Hadji Evlia

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101 1010	POLITICAL TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST 361
No. 11624. 3rd June, 1919. F.O. 1119. June 2nd, 1919. Pol. Turkey & M.E.	(Docket.) Turkish Documents for Presentation to the Peace Conference. Refers to F.O. despatch 1863 of April 1st, & transmits in original Admiral Webb's despatch No. 743 of May 14th referring to such documents forwarded by him in his despatches Nos. 163 of Feb. 16th, & 236 of Feb. 26th. Admiral Webb now encloses copy of memo dated April 30th signed by Greek Deputies in late Turkish Parliament, refuting statements published by that Chamber in their memoir of February 12th, 1919.
(Print.) (Non disposal of.)	(Minutes.) The worthlessness of Turkish statistics is well known and few consider now that the Turk can be any longer allowed to rule Christian populations without vexation & oppression in some form. [illegible] Egerton June 3. Summerall
(File No.) 347 1 1 (Last Paper) (743) (Action completed.) h.L.L. (Index.) ars (Last Paper.)	

www.seyfocenter.com

PEACE CONGRESS.

POLITICAL

TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST

No. 11624.

3rd June, 1919.

F.O.

$:09.

June 2nd, 1919.

Pol. Turkey & M.E.

(Dated.)

Turkish Documents for Presentation to the Peace Conference.

Refers to F.O. despatch 12862 of April 1st, & transmits in original Admiral Webb's despatch No. 743 of May 14th referring to such documents forwarded by him in his despatches Nos. 163 of Feb. 16th, & 236 of Feb. 26th. Admiral Webb now encloses copy of memo dated April 30th signed by Greek Deputies in late Turkish Parliament, refuting statements published by that Chamber in their memoir of February 12th, 1919.

(Print.)

(Minutes.)

The northern area of Turkish territories is well known and few consider now that the Turk can be any longer allowed to rule Christian populations without western supervision in some form.

cf. 0/10000 June 2.

(How disposed of.)

(File No.)
367/1/1

(Last Paper.)
7043

(Action completed.)
2.6.19.

(Initials.)
ars

(Last Paper.)
14083

No. 3
559
(80095/)
M.E. 44

11624
3 JUN 19 A.M.

EARL CURZON OF KEDLESTON presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith for Mr. Balfour's consideration ~~copy of~~ the under-mentioned paper. in original

Foreign Office,

June 2, 1919.

Reference to previous despatch:

From
~~To~~ Foreign Office: 1862 Apl. 1.
6011

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Constantinople No. 743. May 14	Documents prepared by Turkish Govt. for Peace Conference.

www.seyfocenter.com

80095
27 MAY 1919
11024
3 JUN 19 A.M.

366

British High Commission,
CONSTANTINOPLE,
14th May, 1919.

No: 743/M.1289.

Sir:-

6346-385 4/8

With reference to my despatches No. 163/1289 of 16th February 1919, and No. 236/1289 of 26th February 1919, forwarding documents received from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs for presentation to the Peace Conference, I have the honour to forward herewith copy of a Memorandum dated 30th April 1919 ~~1919~~, prepared by the Greek Deputies in the late Turkish Parliament, refuting the statements published by that Chamber in their memoir of 12th February 1919.

6011

Enclosure.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Richmond Webb

High Commissioner.

His Majesty's

Principal Secretary of State

for Foreign Affairs.

11024
3 JUN 19 A.M.

www.seyfocenter.com

Les soussgnés,membres du parti grec dans la dernière Chambre Ottomane agissant aussi au nom de leurs collègues actuellement absents de cette ville,se permettent de soumettre aux Gouvernements des Puissances alliées de l'Entente les considérations suivantes sur le mémoire remis par le Gouvernement turc aux Hauts Commissariats de ces mêmes Puissances à Constantinople,le I2 Février de l'année courante.

I.

Dans le dit mémoire,le Gouvernement Ottoman s'efforce,par une manipulation plus ou moins habile des chiffres,à convaincre les Puissances de la supériorité numérique de l'élément turc sur les nationalités chrétiennes. Il croit que ce fait,une fois prouvé,justifierait le maintien de la domination turque sur les Grecs et Arméniens du pays,en vertu des principes de Wilson.

II.

Pour le moment,nous ne voulons pas examiner la question de savoir,si l'histoire bien connue et cinq fois séculaire de la domination turque sur des races étrangères peut accorder à ce peuple le droit de revendiquer en sa faveur les principes du Président de la grande République,même dans le cas d'une supériorité numérique incontestable.

Les arguments du dit mémoire s'appuyant principalement sur des chiffres,nous croyons utile d'examiner avant tout les questions de statistique.

Sur ce point,nous devons observer qu'en fait de statistique,le Gouvernement Ottoman ne possède aucune source propre dont on puisse tirer des chiffres approchant plus ou moins de la vérité.

En Turquie,il y a eu deux seuls recensements de la population,durant les quarante dernières années. Le plus

récent qui est aussi considéré comme le plus parfait a commencé en 1904 et continué pendant plus d'une année.

On a procédé au travail de la manière suivante:

Les agents chargés de ce devoir,s'installaient dans les enceintes des églises et des mosquées et invitaient les habitants de la ville ou du village à venir s'inscrire. Ceux qui se conformaient à l'invitation devaient aussi faire inscrire les membres de leurs familles et recevoir des certificat de nationalité en payant une somme d'argent proportionnelle au nombre des personnes déclarées.

Or,comme le recensement a continué durant une année et que la police pressait les paysans qui n'avaient pas sur eux leurs certificat de nationalité,il est arrivé qu'une grande partie des Musulmans furent obligés de s'inscrire à plusieurs reprises dans les différents villages,où ils se trouvèrent pendant la longue durée du recensement.

Quant aux Chrétiens,ils ont suivi leur tradition d'éviter par tous les moyens possibles,y compris le bakchich,les autorités turques;ils n'ont jamais oublié que la seule sûreté pour eux est de rester ignorés de leur Gouvernement.

Les sujets étrangers à leur tour,crurent voir dans les procédés et les opérations de ce dénombrement une ruse pour rendre plus tard suspecte leur propre nationalité; ils refusèrent donc net de se faire inscrire;de la sorte,dans les livres du recensement,on n'en peut voir que quelques milliers. Cependant le nombre des sujets étrangers dépassait en ce temps-là,avant la guerre Balcanique,de beaucoup le demi million,et même aujourd'hui,il y a plus de 350.000 étrangers,fixement établis en Turquie.

Ce dénombrement exécuté dans les conditions précédentes fut inscrit sur des feuilles volantes et copié ensuite sans ni soin ni contrôle.

La confusion qui s'en suivit et qui pourrait gêner tout autre Gouvernement fut utile au Gouvernement turc en ce sens que celui-ci selon les circonstances,pouvait donner

sur la population des différentes nationalités du pays,les renseignements qui lui convenaient chaque fois.

C'est de cette manière que l'on peut expliquer, par exemple,comment le Gouvernement a pu prétendre dans son mémoire que les Turcs,dont le nombre est en diminution constante se sont accrus depuis I895 de

I00.000 âmes à Constantinople et de

200.000 " environ depuis I90I à Andrinople

et que les Grecs dans cette dernière province et dans le même laps de temps ont diminué de 20.000 habitants (voir mémoire turc et statistique des almanachs officiels de I895 du vilayet de Constantinople et de I90I et I903 (I3I7 et I3I9) du vilayet d'Andrinople.)

III.

Nous devons aussi relever que dans son mémoire, le Gouvernement turc examinant le chiffre de la population de chacune des nationalités non-musulmanes dans le pays qui s'étend de la Mer Egée jusqu'à Moussoul,pour opposer ce chiffre à la totalité de la population des nationalités musulmanes,ne paraît pas poursuivre un but raisonnable,parceque ni les Grecs ni les Arméniens ne revendiquent la totalité de cette immense contrée. Au contraire,chacune de ces nations revendique une zone spéciale et c'est dans ces limites qu'il faut borner la confrontation des statistiques.

IV.

On peut opposer en bloc à la race turque la population chrétienne des régions revendiquées par les Grecs ou les Arméniens,pour la raison que chacun de ces deux peuples chrétiens préfère la domination de l'autre à celle des Turcs.

Mais ce qu'aucune logique au monde ne peut admettre,c'est que le mémoire turc oppose chaque peuple chrétien séparément,non au peuple turc,mais à la population musulmane comme à un tout unique et indivisible. Cependant,l'unité religieuse des musulmans de Turquie n'a jamais correspondu à une communauté de sentiments chez eux . Au Contraire,une haine

inextinguible sépare des Turcs des millions des musulmans qui habitent dans le pays au déçà de la Syrie et de la Mésopotamie.

Les Kurdes,les Circassiens,les Avchares,les Lazes etc.etc.n'ont avec les Turcs aucune communauté d'origine de langue ou de sentiment.

Les Tachtadjis et les Yourouks(vilayets d'Aidin et de Brousse)nourrissent une telle haine contre les Turcs et une telle sympathie pour les Chrétiens,qu'ils sont par plus d'un considérés comme des Chrétiens qui se cachent.

A part cela,les Stavriotes,les Kromlis,les Oflis etc.de l'Asie Mineure sont des Grecs qui depuis la conquête,ont dissimulé leur nationalité et leur réligion et qui, depuis la guerre de Crimée,luttent en vain pour être reconnus comme des Chrétiens bien que le Gouvernement turc persiste à les appeler musulmans contre leur volonté.

Il serait donc aussi injuste qu'illogique de prendre comme appoint de la population turque tous les musulmans non-Turcs dont la plupart déteste la domination ottomane.

V.

En tout cas,avant de faire la statistique des différentes populations du pays,il faut préciser le point chronologique auquel elle doit se référer;étant donné que de grands déplacements de population et des changements inattendus ont eu lieu en Turquie pendant les six dernières années,la question se pose de savoir,si l'on doit prendre en considération l'état actuel des populations ou celui qui a précédé la guerre.

Certes,le peuple turc ne doit s'en prendre qu'à lui-même,s'il a subi des grandes pertes pendant la guerre,et par conséquent,il ne doit pas se plaindre de sa situation numérique actuelle.

Mais pour les Chrétiens de la Turquie la question est tout autre.

Pendant les dernières six années,le Gouvernement et le peuple,poussés par un fanatisme réligieux et national,ont appliqué des méthodes inouies et employé les moyens les plus odieux pour anéantir les peuples chrétiens se trou-

vant sous leur domination. Nous sommes persuadés que l'esprit de droit et de justice qui prévaut aujourd'hui dans le monde civilisé,ne peut permettre de prendre pour base de discussion que l'époque précédant les massacres et les déportations.

Il est connu que les persécutions contre les Chrétiens ont commencé le jour même où l'armée turque après la guerre Balcanique avançait pour la récuperation de la Thrace Orientale.(1913).

Le Gouvernement,dans son mémoire,fait semblant d'abord d'adhérer à ce principe,mais dans la suite,il tâche de l'éluder;car étant donné que les morts ne peuvent plus revenir à la vie pour voter,quelle autre chose signifie le plébiscite proposé dans le mémoire turc,sinon qu'il faut prendre en considération seulement la population restée après les persécutions? Mais l'acceptation de cette manière de voir aurait pour conséquence la légitimation des massacres,l'annihilation des principes de Wilson et la consécration de l'un des buts pour lesquels la Turquie a pris part dans la guerre. Dans ces conditions,il n'y aurait aucune raison pour qu'Elle ne continue pas les mêmes méthodes,pour obtenir les mêmes résultats partout où l'oeuvre destructive est restée inachevée.

VI.

Selon le mémoire du Gouvernement,la population musulmane de l'Asie Mineur,de l'Arménie,de la Cilicie et du vilayet d'Alep s'élève à 9.291.340 habitants.(a)
Le mémoire cite à côté le chiffre aussi de 7.204.724 donné par Vital Cuinet,et ne fournit aucune explication de cette

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(a).Il importe de retenir au point de vue de la bonne foi,la remarque du mémoire turc que les chiffres de Cuinet,en ce qui concerne les Chrétiens,sont éxagérés comme provenant des Patriarcats respectifs. Cependant,les chiffres de Cuinet sont inférieurs à ceux du mémoire,comme il apparaît du tableau suivant:

	d'après le mémoire	d'après Cuinet
	1.014.612 Grecs	912.458 Grecs
	542.575 Arméniens	443.713 Arméniens

De cette confrontation,résulte le mal fondé des allégations turques. Cependant,Cuinet n'a reçu ces chiffres,que des autorités ottomanes qui considèrent comme devoir patriotique de rabaisser les populations chrétiennes.

L'observation du mémoire n'a été faite que dans le dessein de rendre dignes de foi les chiffres de Cuinet,à propos des populations chrétiennes,chiffres qui,comme il sera exposé plus bas,sont complètement erronés.

différence entre les deux statistiques. 372

Néanmoins,tous ceux qui ont étudié les choses de la Turquie savent bien que la population turque n'augmente pas,elle diminue constamment. La cause n'en est pas seulement les guerres successives et les révolutions continuelles,mais aussi le manque d'instruction du Turc,son fatalisme en cas de maladie et d'épidemie et les divorces fréquents et faciles. Des circonscriptions entières en Anatolie et particulièrement dans le vilayet de Castamouni sont devastées par suite des maladies et constituent le démenti le plus catégorique contre les allégations,touchant la prétendue augmentation de 2 millions de la population turque.

Du reste,personne n'a pu jamais affirmer sérieusement que les vrais Turcs d'Asie étaient,avant la guerre plus de 5 millions,chiffre qui concorde avec les données de Cuinet,après défalcation des populations musulmanes non-turques.

Dans l'intervalle est survenue la dernière guerre,dont la population musulmane est sortie écrasée. Selon la statistique du Ministère de la Guerre,la Turquie a perdu I million d'hommes de son armée. D'après les informations données par le Ministère de l'Intérieur,un second million d'âmes a péri aussi par suite des maladies,des émigrations de la population turque,de la disette etc .

Pour ceux qui ont suivi les évenements de près et qui savent qu'en raison des défauts du service sanitaire les plaies les plus légères se transformaient en gangrène et toute maladie devenait mortelle,pour ceux qui savent l'insuffisance complète du ravitaillement,les abus terribles et la famine qui s'en suivit,ces chiffres sont encore au dessous de la vérité.

VII.

La population grecque se trouve dispersée dans toute l'étendue du pays;elle est compacte dans le vilayet de Constantinople et d'Andrinople,dans l'Asie Mineure d'Ouest et au Pont,plus clairsemée dans le reste de la Turquie.

1°) Vilayet de Constantinople. 370.000 Grecs

C'est ce qui a obligé le Gouvernement turc,d'accorder aux Grecs,lors des dernières élections parlementaires,quatre sièges qui selon la Constitution Ottomane (Art.68) combinée avec la loi électorale représentent une population de 300 à 400,000 âmes.

Le nombre des écoles grecques du vilayet est onze lycées et 200 écoles fréquentées par 20.000 élèves. En outre,6.000 fréquentent d'autres écoles. Ces chiffres correspondent également à la population totale indiquée plus haut.

La population musulmane est en minorité en comparaison de la population non-musulmane. Des douze députés du vilayet de Constantinople les sept sont non-musulmans et les cinq seulement:musulmans.

L'insignifiante supériorité des musulmans (480.000 habitants) sur la population grecque est factice en ce que dans le nombre sont compris ,à part la garnison militaire plusieurs milliers de musulmans pourvus de sinécures et émargeant au budget d'un Gouvernement dissipateur.

2°) Vilayet d'Andrinople. 330,000 Grecs

D'après une statistique du Gouvernement publiée dans l'almanach officiel du vilayet d'Andrinople(année 1901 et 1903) la population du vilayet (défalcation faite des habitants de la Thrace Occidentale) se compose de

Musulmans	Non-musulmans(y compris les Grecs)	Grecs
280.000	415.000	272.000

En ajoutant à la population grecque les sujets Hellènes qui ne sont pas compris dans la statistique,nous avons Grecs 300.000.

Ce chiffre bien que légèrement inférieur à celui indiqué plus haut est remarquable,parcequ'il provient d'une source turque.

3°) L'Asie Mineure Occidentale (b)

En Asie Mineure la force de l'Hellénisme est telle qu'elle a obligé les allemands à crier au danger de la prédominance de l'Hellénisme dans la souveraineté politique du pays.(Voir Karl Dietrich,das Griechentum Kleinasiens,Leipzig,I9I5,p.32.) Le nombre des élèves Grecs s'élève à plus de I00.000 dont environ 70.000 garçons. Cela emmène l'écrivain déjà nommé à évaluer la population grecque à plus de I.000000 . En effet le nombre des garçons (70.000) dans l'ensemble indique l'existence de I40.000 enfants de deux sexes,ayant l'âge scolaire.

Le restant de l'Hellénisme en Turquie. Au Pont(vilayet de Trébizonde et sandjak de Samsoun)se trouve une population grecque de 354.000 habitants.

En outre 300.000 Grecs,originaires de ce littoral,se trouvent actuellement en Russie,où ils ont cherché un asile contre les persécutions;ils n'attendent que le rétablissement de l'ordre dans leur pays natal pour y retourner.

Dans le vilayet de Sivas,Angora,Koniah,Castamouni et la partie orientale du vilayet de Brousse résident 456.000 Grecs.

On doit retenir ce dernier chiffre,car il représente la population grecque qui sera obligée,après la paix, de chercher un asile dans le royaume de Grèce.

(b). Le Gouvernement turc ne fondant pas de grands espoirs sur la confiance que peuvent inspirer ses chiffres,se rapporte souvent à l'ouvrage de Cuinet "La Turquie d'Asie". D'autre part, cet écrivain ne pouvait lui-même puiser ses chiffres qu'auprès des autorités ottomanes.Un exemple: Tout le monde sait que Smyrne possède un caractère hellénique;le Grec est la langue du pays;presque tout y est Grec. C'est au point que les Turcs la haïssent et l'appellent "Ghiaour Izmir" (Smyrne des infidèles). Cependant d'après Cuinet(T.III p.440)elle compte seulement 52.000 Grecs contre 89.000 Musulmans. Même l'allemand Karl Dietrich,dans son ouvrage "das Griechentum Kleinasiens " (p:2I),publié en I9I5,ouvrage qui respire une grande sollicitude pour les Turcs,évalue les Grecs à I20.000 et le Turcs à 50.000. Cette ville possède 34 écoles grecques de garçons et 29 de filles. Les élèves des premières sont I3.000 et des econdes 7870. Il y en a encore 2.000 fréquentant des écoles étrangères. Les Grecs de la ville dépassent de beaucoup I50.000.

Le Gouvernement Jeune-Turc fut obligé dans le sandjak de Smyrne d'accorder aux trois périodes électorales précédentes des années I908,I9II et I9I4 quatre sièges de députés aux non-musulmans et deux aux musulmans. Il a aussi fourni lui-même l'aveu que les Turcs y sont en minorité. Cela juge la valaur des chiffres de Cuinet,invoqués par la Sublime Porte.

VIII.

Cependant,l'examen du sort des peuples de la Turquie est dominé par la solution d'une question fondamentale,qui ne dépend ni de chiffres ni de statistiques. Le Gouvernement Ottoman avoue - il ne pouvait pas faire autrement - qu'en Turquie,à part des Musulmans,vivent des masses de populations chrétiennes,auxquelles comme on sait,il doit toutes les oeuvres de civilisation qui existent dans ce pays. Or, comment le Gouvernement turc a-t-il gouverné ses peuples jusqu'à présent? Il est historiquement prouvé que la domination turque n'a jamais respecté la vie, l'honneur,la fortune de ses sujets chrétiens,que pendant le dernier siècle,elle n'a cessé de tromper l'Europe par de promesses de réformes et qu'à la fin au cours de ces dernières années,profitant des circonstances creées par la guerre générale,il a procédé avec ses forces organisées et le concours de son peuple,à l'anéantissement systématique des Grecs et des Arméniens; un Gouvernement qui à la suite de tels faits,demande la prolongation de sa souveraineté sur des races étrangères,est convaincu de n'avoir pas pénétré le sens des principes de Wilson qu'il invoque lui-même.

IX.

La Sublime Porte dans son mémoire,passe sous silence les persécutions contre les Grecs. Mais lorsqu'il s' agit des Arméniens,elle va plus loin,elle cherche à présenter comme coupables ses victimes mêmes.

Cependant,le Gouvernement précédant interpellé à la Chambre par des députés Grecs,à la séance du 4 Novembre I9I8,n'avait pu nier les crimes et les persécutions. Au contraire,il avait promis une réparation. Il est inutile de chercher à apporter des preuves nouvelles sur des faits désormais incontestables. Il nous suffit de rappeler ici,seule la note de l'Angleterre,de la France et de la Russie communiquées par l'Agence Havas du 24 Mai I9I5,note dans laquelle il est déjà dit formellement que "le peuple turc avec le Gouvernement font

depuis un mois un massacre général des Chrétiens."

X.

Le peuple Grec de la Turquie a prouvé par son action civilisatrice qu'il est digne de l'indépendance qu'il poursuit depuis des siècles; il a toujours participé aux luttes de sa race contre la tyrranie turque; dans la dernière guerre 30.000 de ses enfants se trouvèrent au front Macédonien. Maintenant,après le triomphe remporté par l'Entente,qui a proclamé comme un des buts de la guerre les droits des petites nations,le peuple Grec a la conviction que la reconnaissance de ses droits sera considérée comme une des suites de la victoire des Alliés. Et cela d'autant plus,que les Allemands et leurs alliés par cette guerre ont évidemment poursuivi le but contraire,c'est à dire,l'anéantissement des Chrétiens,auxquels ils ne pouvaient pardonner ni leur capacité commerciale,ni leur attachement inébranlable à la cause Ententiste. (Voir Neue-Freie Presse,2I Juin I9I4,article du général Imhof. Dietrich , das Griechentum Kleinasiens,p.32. Wilhelm Véla,die Zukunft der Türkei im Bündniss mit Deutschland,Leipzig,I9I5,p.34.) (c) De plus les déclarations de Talat Pacha à la ChambreOttomane,à la séance du IO Décembre I9I6.

XI.

Le peuple grec,qui lui aussi a le droit d'exprimer son opinion sur son propre sort et sur son avenir,conformément aux principes proclamés par l'Entente,a déjà manifesté ses désirs à plusieurs reprises;il est bien vrai qu'il ne s'est pas livré à des manifestations tapageuses,car il devait avoir confiance en la justice des Puissances alliées et se conformer aux recommandations de calme et de réserve de leurs Hauts Commissaires à Constantinople. Il a cependant trouvé le

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(c). L'auteur dit dans ce passage. "L'immense influence des Grecs,qui sont absolument Gallophiles ou Anglophiles,doit être brisée en Turquie,car ils sont des ennemis jurés de la Turquie et des instruments commodes aux mains des Anglais et des Français. Ils attendent toujours d'eux la réalisation de leur grande idée,c'est à dire,le rétablissement d'un Empire Grec .

moyen de rendre claire sa ferme volonté de s'unir avec la mère patrie, le royaume de Grèce.

L'Hellénisme de la Turquie ne peut accepter aucun autre régime et aucune autre solution des questions qui le concernent; il est d'ailleurs convaincu que son but national sera atteint, car ce succès s'accorde pleinement avec les désirs des Puissances de l'Entente en ce qui concerne l'établissement d'un ordre de choses pacifique et durable en Orient.

Constantinople le 30 Avril 1919

Les députés Grecs dans la dernière Chambre Ottomane.

E. Emmanuelidès (d'Aidin) Emmanuelidès

S. Siméonoglou (de Smyrne) S. Simeonoglou

E. Meimaroglou (" ") E. Meïmaroglou

V. D. Tchorbadjoglou (de Constantinople) V. D. Tchorbadjoglou

J. Haralambidis (" " ") J. Haralambidès

Th. Démétriadès (de Tchadaldja) Th. Démétriadès

Th. Euclidès (de Rodosto) Th. Euclidès

Dem. Phytos (de Callipoli) Dem. Phytos

Th. Arzoglou (" Samsoun) Th. Arzoglou

G. Ioannidès (" Trébizonde) G. Ioannidès

A. Calinoglou (de Nigdé) A. Kalinoglou

191 1919

PEACE CONGRESS.

POLITICAL. TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST 1378

Telegram No. 14083.

Received July 1.

Writer.
G.H.Q., Constantinople to W.O. Com. by Military Section. I. 6295 tel. June 22,1919.

Pol.: Turkey & M.E.

Alleged Armenian Outrages in Erzeroum District. (Docket.)

Reports received from Ottoman Military sources at Erzeroum state that robberies & massacres of Moslem population by Armenians have taken place. Kurds camped near Hidas lake were attacked by Armenian soldiers & Armenian cavalry crossed frontier near Balik lake causing general call to arms. Country is organising to resist reported handing over to Armenia.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

The source is not a good one.

C.J. Allen
July 3.

Pretty obvious rubbish - except the end.

R. Vansittart
July 3

R. Vansittart.

Is this leading up to a new Armenian massacre?

Lindsay Lieut.
11/7/19

Shuckburgh Capt

It looks like it. RV. July 11

(File No.) 347/1/1

(Last Paper.) (11624)

(Action completed.) RN

(Index.)

(Next Paper.) 15105

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74

P. 379

Paraphrase.

SECRET.

From:- G.H.Q., Constantinople.

To:- War Office.

Despatched:- 14.25 24.6.19.
Received:- 22.20 28.6.19.

I.6295 22nd June. From Ottoman Military sources at Erzerum it is reported as follows. Robberies and massacres of Moslem population by Armenians taken place. About 70 women murdered. Kurds camped near Hidas lake attacked by Armenian soldiers. Armenian cavalry crossed frontier near Balik lake causing general call to arms. British Control Officer Erzerum reports change of Turkish attitude which it ? transpires not (1 group undecipherable), no progress in disarmament. Rumour rife of country being handed over to Armenia, against which it is organized to resist.

C.2. Copies to:-

M.O.X.

PEACE CONGRESS.

191 1919

POLITICAL TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST 380

Registry No. 15105

Received. July 12.

Writer. F.O.

No. 4674

Date. July 11, 1919.

Pol.:Turkey & M.E.

Alleged Armenian Outrages in Erzerum District. (Docket.)

Transmits copy of letter No.B.I./4353 (M.I.2) of July 4th from D.M.I. enclosing copy of tel.No.I.6295 of June 22nd from G.H.Q., Constantinople, regarding information received from Ottoman military sources at Erzerum of alleged Armenian outrages against Turks.

(Print.)

(Minutes.)

Identic with 14083 [save for source]

(How disposed of.)

(File No.) 347/1/1

(Last Paper.) 14083

(Action completed.) P.H.

(Indexed on) 14083

(Next Paper.)

www.sefonter.com

No. 4674
(99204.)M.E.58

15105
12 JUL 19 A.M.

EARL CURZON OF KEDLESTON presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith for Mr. Balfour's consideration copy of the under-mentioned paper

Foreign Office,
11 July, 1919.

Reference to previous despatch:

From
To Foreign Office:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
D.M.I. July 4	Disturbances in Erzerum Area

Similar letter sent to :—

(1640

www.seyfocenter.com

M.I.2)

382

4th July, 1919.

15705
12 JUL 19

The Director of Military Intelligence presents his compliments to the Acting Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and begs to forward, for his information, copy of a telegram No.I.6295 dated 22nd June from General Headquarters, Constantinople, relative to information received from Ottoman military sources at Erzerum of disturbances in that area.

The Acting Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

From:- G.H.Q. Constantinople.

To:- War Office.

Desp. 14.25. 24.6.19.
Recd. 22.20. 28.6.19.

I.6295 22nd June. From Ottoman Military sources at Erzerum it is reported as follows. Robberies and massacres of Moslem population by Armenians taken place. About 70 women murdered. Kurds camped near Hidas lake attacked by Armenian soldiers. Armenian cavalry crossed frontier near Balik lake causing general call to arms. British Control Officer Erzerum reports change of Turkish attitude which it ? transpires not (1 group undec), no progress in disarmament. Rumour rife of country being handed over to Armenia, against which it is organized to resist.

SECRET.

2870
25FEB 19 P.M.

To, Chief of the Imperial General Staff,
War Office, London, S.W.1.

In accordance with your telegraphic instructions I forward the following remarks on the situation, - political, financial and military - in Trans Caucasia and my reasons for stating that I consider a garrison of two divisions necessary to be certain of maintaining order in the district which labours under the following difficulties :-

(a) An armed population suffering from years of misrule,
(b) Religious and national hatred, mistrust and jealousy,
(c) Doubt as to the future,
(d) Financial bankruptcy and approaching famine,
(e) The propaganda of Bolshevism working on an illiterate and uneducated people,
(f) The absence of good means of communication.

SITUATION in Town and Province of BATUM.

The town and province of BATUM are governed through a British Military Governor, by an administrative Council which carries on the civil government under the orders of the Military Governor. The Council is under the presidency of a Russian and is by way of being representative, being composed of two Russians, two Georgians, one Mussulman, one Armenian, one Greek, one Pole and a Jew. This Council may be considered to be fairly representative of the town which is cosmopolitan. It cannot, however, be said to be

representative

representative of the province, the greater proportion of the inhabitants of which are Georgian-Moslems i.e., men of Georgian blood who became Moslems during the Turkish rule of the last century and before. These Georgians are hostile to the Georgians properly so called.

The inhabitants of the province consist of Russians, Georgians, Georgian-Moslems, Armenians, Adjarians, Greeks, Persians, Kurds, Tartars and Poles. At first the Council was extremely unpopular, owing to the fact that the men available to become members were really nonentities without influence or knowledge, but with great assurance, no business capacity and full of fantastic proposals. Now the Government is fairly well received, probably on the score that any form of self-government is preferable to Ottoman rule. Violent Georgian propaganda has become, however, very active in the town since the Turkish guards on the Georgian frontier were withdrawn. This propaganda is instituted without doubt by the Georgian Government who are anxious to obtain possession of the province and who have been warned that unless it ceases the frontier will probably have to be closed to all without passes.

No doubt Georgian propagandists have also been busy in the province where great animosity exists between the Russians and Adjarians against the Georgians. To such an extent is this the case that when the Turks took BATUM from the Georgians last April, they were assisted by 2,000 Adjarians belonging to the province. During the Turkish occupation of Batum the Georgians were compelled to leave the province and the frontier was closed against them. Owing to the large number of Georgians now entering the province and to the minor difficulties which the Georgians are always raising in their dealings with the BATUM officials, friction is daily increasing, e.g.,

Georgian

Georgian operators on the telegraphs refuse to answer the Russian operators employed at BATUM: the Russo-Asiatic Bank which was removed to Georgia is prevented from returning: BATUM officials who are now in Georgia, are refused permission to return: every conceivable difficulty is put in the way of free railway communication between Georgia and Batum. As regards the last point, the small portion of the railway in the Batum province has to be worked under British control, as the entry of Georgian officials would raise trouble.

Owing to the state of unrest in the district due chiefly to the fact that the population is divided into a great many sects all fully armed, each of which forms its own Council, it has been found necessary to guard the railway and to have military posts in various places in the province. At the present moment 2½ battalions are employed carrying out this duty. Once the Turkish troops have been totally withdrawn it is hoped that this number may be reduced.

The financial situation is chaotic,. Nicholai,Kerensky and Tiflis bonds have by proclamation been made legal tender of the same rouble value, but as the latter are not accepted outside the Caucasus, trade with southern Russia is a matter of great difficulty and the food question is adopting a serious attitude. Once the pipe line is repaired, it may become possible to exchange oil for flour. Agitation is kept alive by the political societies who acting on President Wilson's principles, desire to send delegates to the Peace Conference. They fear to be incorporated with Georgia which they hate. The future position of the province, which is certainly not Georgian, presents a problem of some complexity.

SITUATION in the Province of KARS.

It has been found necessary that, on the withdrawal of

of the Turkish Army formerly in occupation, the government of the province of KARS should be carried on by a British Military Governor. An administrative Council, so-called representative, carries on the civil government under his orders. It is representative in that it represents nothing but Moslems. for, as a result of Turkish rule in the province, practically the whole of the inhabitants left are Moslems. the proper Armenianspopulation having been either killed or driven out. For the moment the Council is getting on fairly well with the Military Governor, but unfortunately both the Council and the Moslem inhabitants are at present determined to refuse to permit the several thousands of Armenian refugees of the province to return to their homes. Although it is not intended that these people should return until food and safety can be assured, this state of affairs can only be temporary. The national Moslem attitude must be either changed or overcome. With the complete departure of the Turkish troops and Turkish Governor, a more rational spirit may possibly prevail. In any case we must be prepared before the end of March, when they sow their fields, to allow the Armenians to return to their homes, and afford them protection when they are there. This will certainly not be effected without a show of force. Every man in the province is armed, with plenty of ammunition, and apparently there exists some form of militia of which I have not yet obtained full particulars.

At least one infantry battalion and some cavalry are required as a permanent garrison, and in the event of trouble troops will have to be moved from the Tiflis reserve.

SITUATION in the State of ARMENIA.

The Government is democratic, very much in want of money, and is believed to be as honest as any collection of Armenians is capable of being. It is practically prepared

to

to do anything which the British command desires it to do.

The population is chiefly Armenian, but there is a strong minority of Moslems and so-called Tartars who are probably not really of Tartar descent. The size of the standing army is about 18 battalions, but it cannot be viewed as a danger to us as it is unlikely it would ever take the field against us. Though the Government and the senior officers can generally be trusted not to countenance the excesses against the Tartars, neither the Armenians nor the Tartxrs themselves can be trusted in the same way. There is also a very strong feeling of hostility between the Armenians and the Georgians, as was shewn in the break out of military operations shortly before the arrival of the 27th Division. As a whole the Armenian Republic appears to be much more pro-Russian than either the Georgian or the Azerbaijan Republics; its army is said to contain many Russian officers. The real danger of trouble in this Republic exists in the hatred between the Armenians and Tartars. Herein lies thepossibility of disturbances and it is a very real and serious possibility.

The Tartar zones lie practically -

(a) in the country south of the APA CHAI River.

(b) in the country south-east of SHUSHA,

(c) in the neighbourhood of ELIZABETPOL.

(a) is dealt with below under the heading of the NAKHICHEVAN District, (b) and (c) are dealt with under the AZERBAIJAN Republic. In addition, there exist many Tartar villages espeeially in the direction of ERIVAN in the middle of an otherwise purely Armenian population, which constitutes a grave danger.

It would he advisable to keep one battalion inthe Armenian Republic area.

SITUATION in the NAKHICHEVAN DISTRICT.

This district, the northern and southern boundaries of which have not yet been completely defined, is mainly Tartar

and

and has never been occupied effectively by the Armenian Republic which they claim to do. As the result of the recent disturbances it has been found necessary to institute a British Military Governorship for it, with the local emergency Tartar Government as an administrative Council. How this will work time alone will show.

Every man is armed to the teeth, and, in addition, there exists some sort of armed forces of which I have not yet received particulars. The possibility of disturbances is very much the same as in the case of the Armenian Republic, except that here the Tartars are in the majority and will not be so easy to keep in order as the Armenians. When the Spring comes they will want to drive their herds on to the lands administered by the Armenian Republic. For this reason I consider it essential that an infantry battalion and two troops of cavalry should remain in the district.

SITUATION in the GEORGIAN REPUBLIC.

The Government, which calls itself democratic, is really ultra-socialistic of the most advanced type. Nationalisation of land and wealth has been the rule, thus reducing the former ruling classes to impotency. Administrative posts have been filled with incompetent and wasteful staffs all drawing large salaries and it is doubtful to what extent a single Government office contributes to the revenue of the country. Certainly the railways and telegraphs are run at a considerable loss. When funds run low some form of wealth is nationalised, and the money thus obtained, less official peculations, is applied to replenishing them. In this way a wealthy Armenian wine merchant in TIFLIS has just been plundered of his stock by a special act of Parliament. In addition, it is said that the house property in TIFLIS will shortly

be

be nationalised, and as house property belongs chiefly to Armenians, whom the Georgians detest, the measure will be a popular method of temporarily increasing the revenue. In fact, the Republic is to all intents and purposes a Bolshevik Republic which intends to keep its plunder to itself and therefore has not much use for other Bolsheviks.

The President of the Council and the Secretary for Foreign Affairs are the two most moderate men in the Government, which is, however, a very weak one, and held together only by the cohesive force of a policy of universal national plunder. It is believed to be on the verge of bankruptcy and in this fact now lies the chief danger; for bad and weak as the Government is there does not appear to be any strong man to form a better one, that is to say, a Government which would try to put its house in order and would incur unpopularity to increase taxes and railway and postal charges. The Government is not popular with all parties and two other parties are known to exist, one Russian and the other Bolshevist. Neither is powerful, but either or both is capable of making mischief should the Government get into trouble. So far as active hostility on the part of the present Government is concerned the situation has undoubtedly been greatly improved by the recent declaration of sympathy of the British Government, but covert hostility largely exists, e.g., every conceivable difficulty is put in the way of railway administration and up to date it has been found impossible to coordinate the railway administration of the different republics. Other difficulties are put in the way of procuring accommodation and supplies for the troops, and undoubtedly there is still a very strong pro-German feeling. Should the Government fail there is a considerable chance of an interregnum of anarchy. There are over 100,000 well-hated Armenians in the town and a

/massacre

massacre is always to be feared.

The peace strength of the army is about 18 battalions, but for service against Armenia in the recent conflict the Republic mobilised some 20 to 25,000 men in about a fortnight. It is unlikely that the Army would be used against British troops, certainly not by the present Government, but still it is a danger requiring careful consideration more especially having regard to the Bolshevist danger from the north, and to the possibility of having to defend Georgia from Bolshevist invasion from beyond the Caucasus main watershed. Bolshevists at VLADIKAVKAZ may actually invade Georgia to obtain recruits or may even be driven in to escape from a victorious Denikin's Army. Undoubtedly they are filling Georgia with their agents and propaganda.

It would appear necessary to retain the following troops in GEORGIA:-

(a) At POTI, ½ battalion until all the Germans have been evacuated;

(b) On the railway between NOTANEBI and TIFLIS - 1 battalion;

(c) On the railway to TIFLIS on the AZERBAIJAN boundary - 1 battalion;

(d) at AKHALHALAKA and ALAVERDI - ½ battalion. This half battalion is required to maintain order in the district which formed the scene of conflict between Georgia and Armenia, and was one of the conditions by which peace was attained.

(e) At KAZBEK guarding the north of the province - one battalion.

These detachments are required solely for the purpose of maintaining troops on the spot to keep order, but, in addition, it is essential to have a central force which would have two distinct roles to fulfil, (a) the subjugation

/of

of the territory comprised in the Georgian Republic, in case of opposition or anarchy, (b) the timely reinforcement of all or any of the permanent detachments mentioned above.

The best locality for this force for the province already mentioned is TIFLIS. A force concentrated here has a complete hold on the province of TIFLIS. The old province of KUTAIS incorporated in the Georgian Republic is in many ways different in thought and policy from TIFLIS, and has even more pronounced Bolshevist sympathies. Nevertheless, TIFLIS seems the best place from which KUTAIS can be kept in order, and on account of lines of communication it is the best place from which to reinforce the various detachments in Georgia, Batum, Kars and Nakhichevan. Here, I consider, two infantry brigades, a squadron of cavalry, artillery and cyclists should be concentrated, but under existing circumstances I have not the necessary battalions to carry this proposition into force. Another reason for keeping a strong force at TIFLIS is to deal with the conditions which may arise after the Peace Conference has given its decision. If for instance, Georgia, Kars and Nakhichevan, to mention the three most irreconcilable elements, are disappointed in their aspirations any or all of them may begin to fight, in which case the troops at my dispoal are insufficient to deal with the situations which may arise.

SITUATION IN AZERBAIJAN.

The Azerbaijan Republic came into existence in March or April 1918 after the Armenians and Bolsheviks had turned the Mussulman out of the Apsheron Peninsula. It then had its seat of Government at ELIZABETPOL as an anti-Bolshevik administration imbued with Pan-Islamic ideas. It, however, only really became a governing organisation after the capture of Baku by the Turks and under their protection it moved to Baku. At the time of the capture of the town the Tartars

/massacred

massacred 15,000 Armenians. The territory claimed by the Republic comprises the Baku Government, the Elizabetpol Government, the district known as Zakatalsk, and the portion of what is known as the Erivan Government. The population of these districts is approximately 2,000,000 Mussulmans or Tartars, 700,000 Armenians and about 200,000 Russians.

The name AZERBAIJAN, which is really a district in the north-west of PERSIA, was given to this new Republic at the instigation of the Turk and the pan-Islamic "Mussawat" Society. In Persian Azerbaijan the same language is spoken and the majority of the inhabitants are of the same Mussulman sect. The hope of the Pan-Islamics was that under the protection of a successful Germany and Turkey the Republic would eventually absorb the Persian Azerbaijan, which for some time past has been practically kept by Russia and would so form a large Tartar speaking Republic on the shores of the CASPIAN. If the AZERBAIJAN Republic is to remain in any shape or form it would be advisable to change its name.

The Government consists of a Parliament and a Council of Ministers, the former self-elected, the latter formed by arrangement and has anti-socialistic tendencies. On the re-occupation by the British in November 1918, the Tartar Government was allowed to continue but its position was substantially changed. It was the British intention to form a moderate representative Government, in which all three races, - Tartars, Russians and Armenians - would be represented. Difficulties have taken place in carrying out this arrangement. At present the Russians are represented by members of the Slavonic Society who are not recognised by the Russian population and the Russian National Council has refused to enter the Government. The Armenians have so far abstained from all cooperation, though the latest information showed that they were beginning to think of coming in. The reins of Government are therefore

/practically

practically in the hands of the Mussulman, all of whom are former residents of BAKU, and some of whom have considerable interest in the town. With the exception of the Minister of War, no member of the Government has ever held any sort of administrative post: the result of such a state of affairs can be imagined.

Politically, the Russians actively support the Armenians and on our arrival expected a free hand to deal with the Tartars. Our attitude of working through the existing Government has puzzled them and despite declarations to the contrary, the Russians are firmly convinced that the British intend to annex Azerbaijan and steal the Baku oil. There is a strong anti-British movement among the Russians of which General BICHARAKOV's troops and fleet, paid largely by British money in the past, is the centre, though BICHARAKOV himself is strongly pro-British. Hence the necessity of getting rid of this Army. With British support the present Government would be capable of maintaining order within the territories claimed for itself. It is hoped that the Russians and Armenians will become gradually reconciled and busy themselves with trade. The chief agitator against us is Mr. Minorsky of the Russian Legation at TEHERAN. The Tartars themselves are led by Hun HOISKY an educated lawyer who realises that their only hope of autonomy is through Great Britain, but is opposed by pan-Islamic fanatics of the Mussawat party who do not sufficiently recognise the victory of the Allies. A recent rising organised by this party near SHUSHA was put down by AZERBAIJAN troops; as a result in BAKU City the "Mussawat" leaders, who have Bolshevik leanings, are inclined to join the Russians in an anti-British policy.

The general situation in AZERBAIJAN depends almost entirely on the town of BAKU. Once this question is settled the rest of AZERBAIJAN will probably resolve itself into a settlement of the agrarian question between the

(Armenians

Armenians and Mussulmans. There is even a strong opinion that if the BAKU district was held by an International Commission other questions would be settled with comparative ease. Owing to its wealth the town of BAKU has an influence out of all proportion to its size, and owing to the fact that the industries of Russia are largely dependent on Baku oil for their motive power.

Before the war the population was 350,000; it is now about 260,000 divided equally between the three races. The Russians supply the skilled labour and have the prestige of belonging to the ruling race in the past. Despite a proclamation to the contrary, every man is armed and it is probable that there are field guns and machine guns hidden in the city and its vicinity. There are ample supplies of ammunition. The Russians can produce some 11,000 armed men, the Armenians some 8,000. The result of a prolonged strike might bring about a collision. The last strike showed that the labour population of 65,000 was well-organised and led by the Russians. At the present another general strike is in prospect. This is being staved off for the present, but a climax is likely to arrive sooner or later when it will be necessary to use armed force. It would not be advisable to leave the Tartar Government to settle this strike. In order to overawe the inhabitants by a show of force, it is necessary to keep a minimum of an infantry brigade and a brigade of artillery in Baku while further troops should be kept on the oil fields. The eventual disarmament of the population must also be considered.

In determining other garrisons, the Bolshevik movement in the north has to be considered. The Bolsheviks from a base at ASTRAKHAN carry on an active propaganda, and state that in the Spring they intend to advance by sea and land on Baku. Roughly, they occupy the line of the KAZI YURT where they

/ are

are held by the North Caucasian and Terek Forces. At PETROVSK, where a British naval base has been established, and where Bicharakov had a force of about 2,000 men, the General Officer Commanding at BAKU considers there ought to be a British Brigade, but at present I have been able to spare only one battalion. To keep off the Bolsheviks it is essential to encourage the North Caucasian people.

CENTRES of UNREST.

SHUSHA, some 70 miles south of EVLAKH railway station, the centre of an agricultural district, was garrisoned at the time of our occupation of BAKU by two Turkish battalions, and was about to be attacked by ANDRONIK'S Armenian Army. It has now been overrun by Armenians who are murdering the Tartars who are naturally retaliating, though their Government is trying its best to keep order. It has been necessary to send a company of British infantry to maintain order, but a battalion would be safer.

On the CASPIAN south of BAKU at LENKORAN and MUGHAN there is a Russian colony capable of producing an armed militia of 5,000, at present assisted by 2,000 of Bicharakov's Army. The general feeling is Bolshevik and anti-British. The Tartar is held in subjection and on the northern borders of Mughan is constantly raided by armed Russian and Armenian bands. To allow the Azerbaijan Government to enforce their authority here would lead to much bloodshed, and a British garrison will eventually become necessary.

At ELIZABETPOL is the Headquarters of the AZERBAIJAN Army said to be 25,000 strong of all arms, but as yet I have not been able to obtain accurate information. Once certain that they would not again be handed over to Russia, the Government would probably demobilise their army and thus save money. It is a possible danger, lying astride our lines of communication, but one on which I do not set much store at present, and it would

/ be

be advisable that a brigade of British troops should be distributed between ELIZABETPOL, SHUSHA and LENKORAN.

The following notes on the various populations may prove useful:-

Mussulman. These may be divided into two parties, the followers of the Society of "Mussawat" and the followers of "Itikhat" or the Mussulman in Russia. The former is Pan-Islamic and has worked successfully against the Allies during the war. It is now working in contact with many of the advanced socialists, is strongly anti-British, and it aspires to a Mussulman state from the Caucasus to India, through Persia, Trans Caspia and Afghanistan. It is convinced that the British have come to Trans Caucasia to stay with a view to stopping what they call the road to India. Though strong in Azerbaijan, the Society finds little support among the Mussulmans of the northern Caucasus. The party "Itikhat" maintains that no individual state in the Caucasus can stand alone without some great protecting power. It looks to the reestablishment of Russia as their natural protector. The followers of this party consist mostly of the trading and commercial elements, and for the time being/are willing to adopt the assistance of the Allies. They are increasing in strength but are becoming less confident of the Allied policy owing to the strong propaganda carried on in their ranks by the Russian National Council, who, fearing that we are going to support the Azerbaijan claim to independence, are strongly against us.

Speaking generally our presence is not acceptable to the Mussulman community in BAKU. The Mussulman as a whole is convinced that we are favouring the Armenians.

Russians. It seems correct to say that all sections of the Russian public resent our presence. All seem to consider that we shall eventually recognise the independence of Azerbaijan. The large labouring community is very advanced-socialist and

/ therefore

therefore mistrusts Great Britain. The counter-revolutionary elements are using this force of labour to suit their own purposes. It must not be forgotten that BAKU was once a Bolshevik stronghold, and that although the leaders left the town the mob has remained. Another disturbing element is the presence of some 7,000 Armenians and Russians who were formerly in the Red Army. The presence of General Bicharakov's Army and what he terms his fleet is causing a considerable amount of unrest. His policy is undefined, and his men have nothing to do. He poses as a representative of a Russia which does not recognise him, he is not a follower of Denikin but is anti-Bolshevik. His personal friendship for the British has been of some assistance but as we are now in stronger force the time has arrived to get rid of him.

The Russian National Council is very bitter against the British. They refuse to recognise the Azerbaijan Republic and to enter into the Ministry or Parliament. They maintain that we should hold the country in trust for Russia. They will only enter the Goverrment with the assurance that Azerbaijan will be returned to Russia. They are more inclined to support Denikin that Bicharakov. The Russian Society calling itself the Slavonic Russian Society supports the Allies, and has representatives in the AZERBAIJAN Goverrment. It does not represent Russian opinion, and maintains that Tartar rule is better than Bolshevik. Generally speaking the Russian population is anti-British because they are at heart Bolsheviks. They would support Denikin only as representingyRussia against the Tartar, but they are strongly anti-monarchical.

Armenians. The Baku Armenian is a distinct disappointment. This is probably due to the Socialists of the lower classes who formerly joined the Bolsheviks and the strength of the secret society Dachnachatsoum in the Armenian National Council. They cannot forget the past and being convinced of their own

/ independence

independence in Armenia are supporting Russia's claim to Azerbaijan. They are working hand in hand with the Russian National Council, and have no other object than revenge on the Tartar.

Trade and Commerce. The whole country is starving for supplies, and the first necessities are clothing, boots, shoes, and every sort of household necessity and machinery. The money crisis is such that even the wealthy are unable to find sufficient cash to pay for their goods. Prices can be brought down solely by competition, and until this is brought about labour unrest will continue as a fertile soil for Bolshevist propaganda. Speculation and cornering of goods is the order of the day. Traders are doing their best to maintain high prices. Indiscriminate importation of goods would result in the wealthy merchants buying up wholesale and thus cornering supplies. The Russian bank has been taken over by the British and is being conducted by them, but this can only be a temporary arrangement. Undoubtedly steps will have to be taken at an early date by the Allied Governments to encourage imports and bring down prices. The financial question caused by the unstable position of the rouble requires also careful consideration, not only in AZERBAIJAN but in the whole of TRANS CAUCASIA. Financially the whole country seems to be rushing to ruin. It is to be noted that the French representatives are already booking trade/orders in considerable quantities, and it might be advisable that British representatives who have some knowledge of trade conditions in Russia should be sent out to look after British interests. In each case some form of granting credit would have to be arrived at by the British Goverrment. All imported goods would have to be sold to the consumer and under Allied control, otherwise cornering and profiteering will be rampant.

/ General

General.

From the above it will be seen that the situation in AZERBAIJAN is more complicated and more full of danger than in Georgia. These dangers are :-

(1) The lack of anybody holding the confidence of the people and administrative capabilities.

(2) The anti-British attitude of the labouring and lower classes, due to their idea that the British Government intends taking BAKU from Russia.

(3) The fact that the population is armed.

(4) The proximity to the Bolshevik Army and the hope of support from them. A strong Bolshevik propaganda is in progress.

(5) The lack of employment for thousands of people who naturally get themselves into mischief.

An official declaration of the Allied policy in Trans Caucasia would do away with many of these difficulties though it may necessitate the employment of troops to insist on that policy being carried out. While Georgia and Azerbaijan are endeavouring to maintain their independence the Russians in Trans Caucasia are strong upholders of some form of Russian Government there and the same may be said of the Armenians outside Armenia. Whatever is decided it is very doubtful whether these small states can ever be wholly independent. Free trade between the States with one railway, postal and telegraph system appear absolutely essential owing to the interdependence of one part of the country on the other, and the governing factor that the Baku oilfield supplies not only the motive power but the money for fuller development.

(Sgd) G. F. MILNE.

General,
Commanding-in-Chief,
British Salonika Force.

G.H.Q.
Constantinople,
6th February, 1919.

(Docket.)

Situation at Tiflis.

Refers to F.O. despatch No.3912 of June 14th enclosing copy of dispatch from High Commissioner, Constantinople, giving account of this situation, and transmits copy of letter from D.M.I.,dated July 22, stating that result of enquiries from General Thomson has been to prove that conditions as described by Admiral Calthorpe are substantially true.

Suggests that question be brought to notice of S.E.C. and Colonel Haskell.

Registry No. 16407
Received. July 28.
Writer. F.O.
4968
July 25, 1919.
Pol.:Turkey & M.E.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

Col. Haskell has left and I imagine the Relief Section of the S.E.C. are fully alive to the situation, as the reports come from American Relief Officers.

C.J. Oldham
July 28.

Py X.

The Supreme Economic Council sh^d see this. They probably know it already however

Robert Vansittart

We are in close touch with this situation.

William Goode
29/7/19

(File No.) 347/1/2
(Last Paper.) (2870)
(Action completed.) 8/7
(Index.)
(Next Paper.) (18055)

16407
28 JUL 19 A.M.

No. 106316/M.E.44.

NO. 4968

Foreign Office,
Whitehall. S.W.1.

July 25th 1919.

12642 / 376 / 1/4

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 3912 of the 14th ultimo transmitting a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's High Commissioner at Constantinople, containing accounts of the conditions in the neighbourhood of Tiflis, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the Director of Military Intelligence relative to this matter.

I venture to suggest that this question should be brought to the notice of the Supreme Economic Council and of Colonel Haskell.

I have the honour to be

with the highest consideration,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

(For Lord Curzon of Kedleston)

Gerald Spicer

The Right Honourable

A.J. Balfour O.M. M.P.,

&c. &c. &c.

406
16407
28 JUL 19 A.M.

B.I/4028 (M.I.2)

22nd July, 1919.

The Director of Military Intelligence presents his compliments to the Acting Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and, with reference to his letter No.90599/M.E/44 dated the 15th July, 1919, regarding the destitution in the neighbourhood of Tiflis as described in the extracts from two letters forwarded under cover of his letter No.84415/M.E/44 dated the 13th June 1919, begs to inform him that enquiries have now been made from General Thomson, and that his opinion is that this description, although highly coloured, is substantially true and that it is inevitable owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the railways and the economic condition of the country.

The Acting Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

PEACE CONGRESS 407 4087

No. 106316/M.E.44.

NO. 4968

Foreign Office,

Whitehall. S.W.1.

July 25th 1919.

POLITICAL, TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST
16407
28 JUL 19 AM

Sir,

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Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

The Right Honourable

A.J. Balfour O.M. M.P.,

&c. &c. &c.

191 1919

PEACE CONGRESS.

4087

POLITICAL. TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST

(Docket.)

Situation in the Caucasus.

Transmits 3 letters from the D.M.I. enclosing two telegrams Nos.I.6627 & I.6715 from General Milne and a report from General Bridges on the above. First telegram contains news of Tartar (?) activities against the Armenians at Sadark and Djulfa.

Report deals with question of repatriation, conflict between Christians and Mussulmans, Mandate for Armenia, and general situation.

Registry No. 18055

Received August 18.

From Writer. F.O.

5462

Date August 16, 1919.

Subject: Turkey & M.E.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

Tel I. 6715 already received [Sa 17706]
342/1/6

General Bridge's 'notes' within are worth reading.

C.J. Adam
Aug. 18

Robert Vansittart
Aug 18

GFC
Aug 19

(File No.) 347/1/2

(Last Paper.) (16407)

(Action completed.) B.H.

(Index.)

(Next Paper.) (8601)

Archives

Inter No 54462. (115218/ME. 58.)

18055

EARL CURZON OF KEDLESTON presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith for Mr. Balfour's consideration copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,

aug. 16. , 1919.

Reference to previous despatch:

From
To Foreign Office:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Letters from the Director of Military Intelligence of aug. 11.	Situation in Caucasus

Similar letter sent to :— I.B.

[P.C.1]—139 A 500 7|19

B.I/4929 (M.I.2)

18045
18 AUG 19

11th August, 1919.

The Director of Military Intelligence presents his compliments to the Acting Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and begs to forward, for his information, a copy of a telegram No. I.6627 dated 30th July from General Headquarters, Constantinople, relative to the activity of the Intars in the neighbourhood of Sadark village which is on the River Araxes about 75 miles North West of Nakhichevan.

The Acting Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

set on his head. He is said to have £T 30,000 always with him.

OPERATIONS

From:- G.H.Q. Constantinople.

To:- War Office.

PARAPHRASE.

Desp. 2300. 30-7-19.
Recd. 0830. 21-7-19.

I.6627 30th.

Continuation my I.6612.

Lieutenant Charles and batman with Union Jack and White flag in their hands endeavoured on July 25th to enter Sadark village to stop firing which was then in progress and to arrange armistice. Both were fired on by Intars and were forced to retire. Batman was later captured by Intars; his fate is unknown. All orders given by Charles to cease hostilities were ignored by Intars although it is a practical certainty that they received at least 1 copy of such orders. No news from Nakhichevan.

Bishop Norses wired from Tabriz July 25th asking for the British to send help since he had just received wire from Djulfa stating that Intars threatened to massacre a train load of Armenian women and children.

ring

been

[illegible] said to have £T 30,000 always with him.

[illegible] much to us.

B.I/4881 (M.I.2.)

11th August, 1919.

The Director of Military Intelligence presents his compliments to the Acting Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and begs to forward, for his information, a copy of a report on conditions in the Caucasus, by General Bridges, dated 26th July.

The Acting Under Secretary of State

Foreign Office.

N O T E S O N

PRESENT CONDITIONS IN THE CAUCASUS.

26th July, 1919.

(1) The outstanding feature of the present conditions in the Caucasus is the racial conflict between Christian and Mussulman. This has been held in abeyance by British occupation. A strong subterranean current is, however, running. It is fed by the machinations of Tartar, Kurd and Turk, and by the Agents of the C.U.P., probably directed by Enver Pasha himself, who has been fairly conclusively proved to be in the district of Karabak. Perhaps indeed we should look further afield for the directing hand as Mussulman disordered throughout the world appear to be co-ordinated. Day by day the outbreak grows nearer and more certain. Small sporadic conflagrations appear wherever Mussulman agents are gathered together. These have been signalled at such places as Shusha, Gerusi, Nakhichevan, to the South of Erivan, about Kars, at Olti, at Erzeroum, Trebizond, Samson and Kerasun. Nobody with whom I spoke in the country differed from the opinion that, when we relinquish our occupation, an outbreak was inevitable which would put the clock of civilization back for another generation.

There seems to be no doubt that the Turks are endeavouring to profit by the situation for a double object; compensation for allied encroachments in other parts of Turkey, and revenge on the Greeks and Armenians.

Enver has been condemned to death but no price has yet been set on his head. He is said to have £T 30,000 always with him. This would seem a fitting price and he would be worth as much to us.

(2) It should be made clear to America or any country proposing to take a mandate for Armenia that nothing can be done without troops.

Under/

Under existing circumstances the repatriation of Armenians into Turkish Armenia is quite impossible until the area in question has been evacuated by the Turkish Army and occupied by Allied troops. The numbers required depend on the area to be occupied, the quality of the troops and the mechanical devices at their disposal. Given the moderate project, apparently the most likely to be undertaken, i.e. with frontier including Trebizond, Erzingan, Bitlis and Van, the numbers are estimated both by British Authorities and the Armenian Prime Minister (Mr. Ktissian) as 15,000 men. Colonel Chardigne, Head of the French Mission, who knows the problem well, puts the numbers necessary at 12 battalions of Infantry, 1 regiment of Cavalry on local horses, 3 batteries of Mountain Artillery, 1 battery Field Artillery, a squadron of Aeroplanes, Armoured Cars, a few Tanks, and strong Motor Convoys.

All on the spot are agreed that to repatriate the 40,000 available Armenians into Turkish Armenia before the country has been properly policed in this fashion, is to deliver them into the hands of the enemy and to invite massacre.

The Kurds have been inclined to help rather than hinder, except where they are under Tartar or Turk influence, or where efforts are being made to repatriate Armenians into Kurdish territory.

(3) Ktissian had no fears for Russian Armenia if allowed a modicum of allied officers for the gendarmerie and a small number of allied troops to support the local forces. The latter number 17,000; they are short of ammunition, and they are tired. They guard a perimeter of 580 kilometres and they are required to help in the harvest. Assistance therefore would be required at once.

once. In fact it is continually asked for. The situation at Nakhichevan require intervention. We have a small detachment moving from Tabriz to Tiflis, which will pass through Nakhichevan, and perhaps temporarily steady the situation.

(4) The new Armenian State if it ever becomes a reality proposes to have Batoum and Trebizond as ports. Ktissian would like to see Batoum a free port under British control, which would mean the control of the Province of Batoum by the British. Armenia would then run her railway to Kars - not through the mountains as was projected before the war, but skirting them and running partly through Turkish Armenia, which would shorten the estimated time require for construction to 2 years instead of 5. The Trebizond-Erzeroum railway is also projected but presents very great engineering difficulties. There is a project to establish the Capital near Lake Van, but it is understood that Erzeroum is more generally favoured.

(5) In none of the Provinces of Trans-Caucasia is Italian occupation looked on seriously. Owing to lack of prestige it is not considered that they would be able to combat the Mussulman influence. It was rumoured that they had discovered in the unexploited Crown Islands at Baku good possibilities for recouping themselves for any outlay they may have to make. Generally speaking they are not expected and one of the Azarbaijan ministers told me that at Baku the Bolshevists would forestall them.

(6) At the present moment the state of the country otherwise is satisfactory. We hold it by prestige. It says a great deal for the British troops that have been in occupation, that life and property are safer to-day than they have ever been. Whatever we say goes, and I doubt whether the British Government is aware

of/

of the extraordinary high level at which our prestige stands in these outskirts of civilisation. This may be ascribed partly to the energy and devotion displayed by all ranks in this ungrateful task and partly to the fact that our officers do not dabble in trade and are obviously disinterested. If we cared to take hold and rule this province it could be done now with a minimum of effort and expenditure and a maximum of efficiency; and although there is a great deal of grumbling, for instance at Tiflis, the people would, at bottom, be glad to be ruled, and our evacuation will cause consternation. Two British divisions (part Indian as the Indians are a success) are sufficient to keep the whole country in order until Russia finds her feet or some other solution than delivering these provinces to anarchy can be devised. Trans-Caucasia is a rich country and can easily be made to pay for its police force.

(7) When the time comes to hand over the Caspian Fleet to Denikin, publish the new boundary line between Denikin and Azarbaijan*, and to evacuate British troops, an awkward situation will arise. There is no doubt, from what Melik Aslamoff, the Director of Communications in Azarbajian and Leader of the Pan-Islamic party, told me, that we should be regarded as traitors, and there may be an attempt to treat us as such; in fact the rear guard might have some difficulty in getting away unless very firm measures are taken, and might possibly have to make an undignified exit

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* This gives Daghistan to Denikin and was to be promulgated on 4th August. No doubt an excellent boundary but the Azarbaijan Government had already been told that the British Government had ordered Denikin to go back to the previously given line, which was to constitute the frontier. General Cory who is naturally very jealous of our good name considered that, however, necessary, this could only be regarded by the Azarbaijans as a breach of faith on our part and a sign that we favoured Denikin's encroachments.

exit by sea through Persia. I do not regard this as very probable owing to the afore-mentioned state of our prestige. I fancy we can take liberties with the people, but it may be necessary to talk to the Azerbaijan Government in a fatherly way, as all these countries are adepts at obstruction and a railway strike would be very inopportune. General Cory thought it might be necessary in case of a railway strike to keep the workmen in our pay and to feed them - a matter of some £200,000 expenditure. Moreover, Baku has a sinister reputation. There is a large and evil population there; 20,000 Christians were murdered in the streets during the past year, and should the Tartars get out of hand the troops would not make their way out without great difficulty.

(8) It is perhaps worthy of note that Nomad Tartars have practically had to fight their way up to the hills this year with their flocks in Karabak. This movement, the cessation of which would spell famine and disaster, has to be carried out under almost active service conditions. Russia used to devote two divisions to this biennial migration. Karabak is one of the danger spots. It is the cradle of the Armenian race and the Tartars would dearly love to get hold of it. It has been on the verge of conflagration for weeks past but held in check by our presence.

(9) The fact that Denikin is laying claims to Batoum and may shortly be doing the same to Baku and to Tiflis does not tend to stabilise the situation or contribute to the happiness of the local functionnaries, who have nearly all guilty consciences. Most of them, however, have feathered their nests sufficiently to make an exit before their position becomes critical.

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critical. The result will be chaos. There is a very large amount of oil products stored at Baku waiting for transport to its natural markets in Russia via Astrakan, and one of the chief grievances of the Azerbaijani is that he has not been allowed to trade with the Bolshevists. This, and also the fact that Baku will probably turn Bolshevist again, seem sufficient reasons for Denikin to occupy the place at once on the grounds of military necessity.

(10) Georgia and Azerbaijan have federated themselves with a view to resisting Russian aggression. This is rather as if the sheep combined to resist the wolves. It would seem that nothing but foreign occupation could prevent them from again becoming Russian provinces. Armenia who has refused to join the federation and who relies entirely on the good graces of the Great Powers may have a longer lease of life. but it is not easy to see how she can possibly preserve her independence without substantial help and the assistance of allied troops. In fact unless some great power takes a Mandate for Armenia she cannot exist any more than Georgia or Azerbaijan.

(Signed) T. Bridges Lieut-General.

B.I/4921 (M.I.2)

11th August 1919.

The Director of Military Intelligence presents his compliments to the Acting Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and begs to enclose herewith a copy of a telegram No. I.6715 dated the 7th July 1919, from General Headquarters, Constantinople, relative to the situation in Trans-Caucasia.

The Acting Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

Copy to F.O.

C.I.

(File No.)

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Paraphrase

From:- G.H.Q. Constantinople.

To:- War Office.

Desp. 0630. 7.8.19.
Recd. 0100. 8.8.19.

I.6715. 7th August.

In continuation of my telegram No. I.6708 dated August 6th. Intercepted wire in code from Azerbaijan representative at Erivan urges his Government before it is too late to declare war on Armenians This means presumably before Armenia attains settlement with Tartars (one group undec.) insurgents.

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PEACE CONGRESS.

191 1919

POLITICAL. TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST 421

(Docket.)

German Consulate at Tiflis.

Report from Col. Chardigny informs of impending arrival of above.

Registry No. 18601.

Received. Sept. 3.

Writer. Gen. Spears.

Sept. 2, 1919.

Pol.: Turkey & Middle East.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Foreign Office 1954 Sept 5

(Minutes.)

Political Section.

For transmittal.

I am unable to gauge the actual value of this information, but if true it appears premature. The German Treaty has not yet been ratified & we had enough trouble with the former German Consul at Tiflis. Count von Schulenburg.

4/9/19.

This is certainly undesirable, especially at the present juncture. But if we are evacuating we are not in a position to bring pressure to bear.

Robert Vansittart
Sept 4

Copy & F.O.

C.J.
Sept 4.

(File No.) 347/1/2

(Last Paper.) 18055

(Action completed.)

(Index.) MST.

(Next Paper.)

Jacket

SECRET.

L.S.O.2636.

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MISSION MILITAIRE BRITANNIQUE
PRES LE GOUVERNEMENT FRANÇAIS
4bis, Boulevard des Invalides - PARIS
18 JUIN
3 SEPTEMBRE

422

2nd September, 1919.

Dear General,

From Colonel Chardigny, 27th August.

A German Consul and the personnel of a Consulate are to arrive shortly at TIFLIS.

Yours sincerely,

E. L. SPEARS.

Brigadier General,
General Staff.

Major-General Sir P.P.de B.Radcliffe, KCMG, CB, DSO.

Copy to Astoria.

(File No.) 347/13
(Last Paper.)

1919

Registry No. 5007

Received. March 24.

Writer. F.O.

1576

March 21, 1919.

Pol.: Turkey & Middle East.

(Docket.)

Formation of New Republic of Lenkoran.

Transmits Batoum tel. No.5 informing of newspaper report of recent formation of above Republic comprising 20 Russian settlements on Banks of River Bolgar Tchai, districts of Djerat and Lenkoran, Government of Baku and portion of Mugan Steppe. Population about 50,000 half of whom are Tartars who are said to have joined Republic willingly. Details as to Government, President, and military force which is exclusively Russian with militia half Russian and half Tartar. Object is to suppress anarchy and combat Tartar brigandage in Zuvan mountain districts and Persian and local raiders in Lenkoran district.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

This is a further complication of the problem of Azerbaijan.

A.J.T. 27.3.19.

The new Russian republic down here would form a point d'appui for the return of Russian rule south of the Caucasus.

R.W.

FO 608/84/23

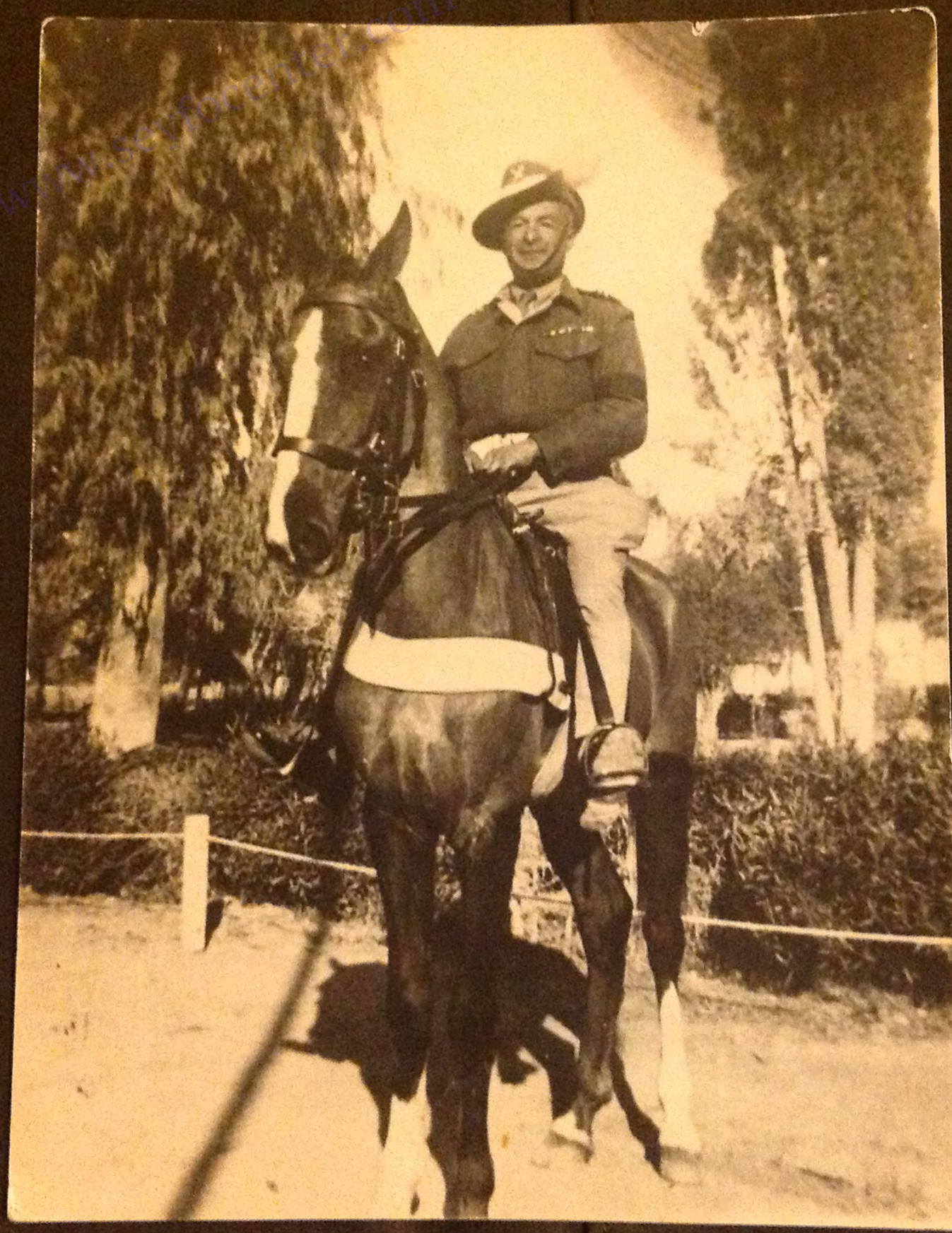
(File No.) 347/3

(Last Paper.)

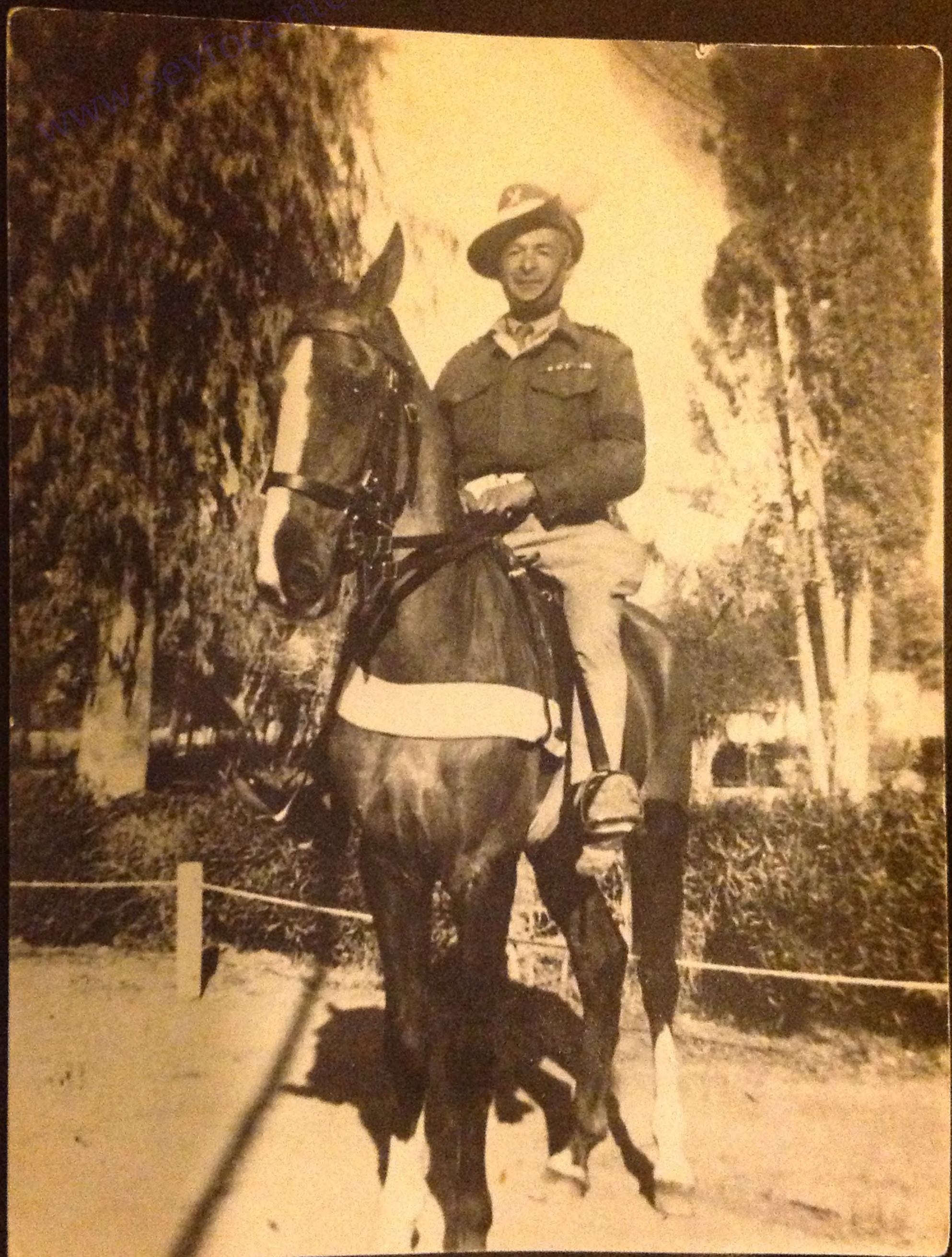
(Action completed.) R.H

(Index.)

(Next Paper.)



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IRAQ LEVIES

DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

This is to certify that the bearer thereof No. X 18 Rank Rab. Emma

Name BAIJO REHANA (A.O.C's.C.Os. CLASS II)

Royal Air Force Levies

is discharged from the (Iraq). on the 14.Sept.52 (date) as* "Time Expired"On Retirement On Pension.

having served in the said ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ Force from 1.May 1921 to 14 September 1952.

DESCRIPTIVE ROLL.

No.	Rank	NAME	Village	Town & Dist.	Present age	Particular marks
		Baijo Rehana	Pagy	Larbisho Turkey	53 Yrs	

SERVICE BENEFITS.

The bearer's conduct and character while with the Royal Air Force Levies(Iraq) was

Exemplary

He is in possession of the following Decorations and Medals General Service, Iraq Active Service, 1939/45 Star and War Medal Long Service & Good Conduct Medal.

* Here state reason for discharge † Character is to be stated in the handwriting of the C.O.

In the case of men discharged from the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Levies at their own request the C.O. will make the following note:-

Suitable in all respects for further Military Service.

Considered unsuitable for Military Service on account of

I acknowledge to have received from the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Levies full and true account of my pay, arrears of pay, and other demands from the said ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Levies from the time of my first enrolment into the service to this date, viz., the 14th day of September 19 53, and NIL Over 22 years service on current engagement.

28 days Terminal Leave from 15.9.52 to 12.10.52 with allowance of 1s. 1/-in lieu of civilian su etc.

Name and Rank

Date [illegible] SQN.LDR Commanding Wing Royal Air Force No. 1 Wing Levies(Iraq).

* If any state if any gratuity or compensation for premature discharge has been

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