TURKEY

307043—42—vol. II——23

763.72119/2640 : Telegram

The Ambassador in Italy (Page) to the Secretary of State

ROME, November 13, 1918—1 p. m.
[Received November 16—1:15 a. m.]

2337. The chairman of the three Armenians representing the Armenian Committee to Italy called on me. This Committee is formed of the representative in Italy of the national Armenians who is also the delegate accredited to Allied powers with headquarters in Paris, the President of the Armenian Committee of Italy, and the political editor of the Italian [periodical?] *Armenia* who is also Secretary of the Committee. They were presented to me by Luzzatti, former Prime Minister of Italy and I received at the same time a note from the French Ambassador informing me I would be waited on by this Committee. They expressed France's regret that Armenia had appeared to be omitted from the list of new states whose independence has been advocated by the President and spoke with earnestness of the situation and hope of Armenia. At my suggestion they have sent me a memorandum[1] accompanied by a letter from Luzzatti, copies of which I am sending to Department by post. This memorandum outlines the political organization and national aspirations of the Armenian people, refers to history and sufferings of Armenia before and during war, states that they have been pro-Ally and many Armenians have fought with Allies; outlines situation of Armenia in Russia and Persia, includes general remarks in favor of the Armenian State. Their general demands are territorial liberty, complete elimination of Turkish sovereignty, recognition by Allies of Armenian State, unification of Russia and Turkish Armenia into one free state, solution of Persian-Armenian provinces left to Allies, geographical limits of territory.

NELSON PAGE

[1] Not printed.

763.72119/2669

President Wilson to the Secretary of State

WASHINGTON, 16 November, 1918.

MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: My interest in the Armenians is profound and my sympathy for them really poignant, and I hope that you will through the proper channels reply to the enclosed that in every way we will do what we can.

Cordially and sincerely yours, WOODROW WILSON

[Enclosure—Telegram—Translation]

Signor Luigi Luzzatti to President Wilson

ROME, November 8, 1918.

At a meeting held on Sunday evening at Rome on the initiative of authorized representatives of the Armenian nation, presided over by Deputy Luigi Luzzatti, Minister of State, and attended by Deputy Meda, Minister of Finance, Deputy Borsarelli, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Deputy Indri, Under-Secretary of State for Finance, Deputy Teso, Under-Secretary for the Navy, Count de Martino, Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Senator Bodio, Deputy Cesaro, Chairman of Italian Committee on Armenian independence, Deputy Arca, Sir Mark Sykes, M. P., and a large number of other prominent politicians, professors and publicists, resolutions were passed to the effect that Armenia in consideration of the past and present martyrdom, and military aid spontaneously lent to allied cause, as proved by official testimony, of the part taken throughout history by the element of civilization, be at once constituted into a free and independent State. All agree that Armenia is destined to become one of the jewels of society of nations the advanced sentinel of civilization in the East. The meeting also resolved to apply to the President of the United States of America, the creator of freedom of nations and to the most worthy heads of the Governments of France, England and Italy; Clemenceau, Lloyd George, Orlando for the immediate recognition of Armenian national delegation headed by Nubar as a government by the same titles and in the same manner as the Polish, Czech, [Yugo-]Slav Governments have been recognized. The meeting unanimously takes the liberty of cautioning Allied Governments against Turkey whose domination over Christian peoples is a standing menace to the civilization and peace of the world.

LUIGI LUZZATTI

763.72119/3116

The Italian Ambassador (Macchi di Cellere) to the Counselor for the Department of State (Polk)

WASHINGTON, November 19, 1918.

MY DEAR MR. POLK: In connection with our conversation of yesterday, I take pleasure in transmitting to you a memorandum regarding the situation in Tripoli arising out of the violation of the armistice by Turkey,[2] and the necessity of putting an end to it. I shall appreciate it if the American Government will approach the British Government with the view of having Turkey keep faith to her engagements.

With appreciation [etc.] MACCHI DI CELLERE

[Enclosure]

The Italian Embassy to the Department of State

MEMORANDUM

In connection with the fulfillment of the clauses of the armistice granted to Turkey, the Italian Government learns that the opinion is being spread in Lybia that it is optional with the Turkish officers to remain there under the orders of Ahmed, the former sheriff. It is also reported that there recently arrived in Lybia a Turkish personage and that there are reasons to suspect that he might be the famous Enver Pasha.[3] It is at any rate positive that a Turkish superior officer landed at Tripoli and that he is endeavoring to organize civilians and military men. He has offered the government of the Ghebel to a Turkish general.

The Italian Government, moreover, is without any news as to the Italian prisoners at Misurata. And a telegram addressed November 12th by the Governor of Tripoli to the Italian Government states that the enemy, who had been inactive for a long time, in the afternoon of the 11th, subjected the Fort of Belal (which is one of the defenses of the city of Tripoli) to an artillery fire with 37 millimeter guns for 45 minutes, which was followed in the evening by rifle fire and caused the Italians the loss of one dead and one wounded. It is to be remarked in this connection that, as it is well known, the artillery in Tripoli is directed by Turkish officers.

It is obvious that such an attack is a flagrant violation of the terms of the armistice granted to Turkey. It is also obvious that

[2] For terms of the Anglo-Turkish armistice, see undated telegram No. 32 from Colonel House, *Foreign Relations*, 1918, supp. 1, vol. I, p. 441.

[3] Turkish Minister of War, Jan. 1914 to Oct. 1918.

the landing of a Turkish superior officer is a violation of the terms of the armistice.

Sections 15 and 16 of the armistice, not to mention other ones, read in fact as follows:

Sec. 15: "Surrender of all Turkish officers in Tripoli and Cyrenaica to the nearest Italian garrison."

Sec. 16: "Surrender of all occupied ports in Tripoli and Cyrenaica, including Misurata, to the nearest Allied representative."

And it is inconceivable that, while the whole world is being restored to peace, fighting should continue in Tripoli.

The Italian Government has called the attention of the Allied Governments to this unbearable situation, asking them, especially the British Government, to take proper steps through their representatives at Constantinople to put an end to it.

In view of the fact that the United States Government has not at present its own representative at Constantinople, the Italian Embassy suggests, and shall appreciate it if the State Department will approach the British Government, pointing out to it the necessity for Turkey to keep faith to her engagements, thus doing away with a state of affairs which manifestly works to the prejudice of the Italian Nation, but could also be freighted with dangers for the general peace.

WASHINGTON, November 19, 1918.

763.72119/2791 : Telegram

The Diplomatic Agent and Consul General at Cairo (Gary) to the Secretary of State

CAIRO, November 25, 1918—10 p. m.
[Received November 26—3:12 p. m.]

226. I have the honor to quote as follows the official text of a joint declaration by the British and French Governments:[4]

"The aim which France and Great Britain have in view in waging in the East the war let loose upon the world by German ambition is to ensure the complete and final emancipation of all those peoples so long oppressed by the Turks, and to establish national governments and administrations which shall derive their authority from the initiative and free will of the people themselves. To realize this aim France and Great Britain are in agreement to encourage and assist the establishment of native governments in Syria and Mesopotamia, now liberated by the Allies, and also in those terri-

[4] By Department's telegram No. 35, Dec. 30, 1918, 5 p. m., the text of this declaration was repeated to the Commission to Negotiate Peace.

tories for whose liberation they are striving and to recognize these governments immediately they are effectively established. Far from wishing to impose on the peoples of these regions this or that institution they have no other care than to assure, by their support and practical aid the normal working of such governments and administrations as the peoples shall themselves have adopted. To guarantee impartial and even justice for all, to facilitate the economic development of the country by arousing and encouraging local initiative, to foster the spread of education, to put an end to those factions too long exploited by Turkish policy—such is the part which the two allied governments have set themselves to play in liberated territories."

The above declaration was published in the local press on November 8th as an official communiqué and was reported to the Department in my despatch number 7100 of November 11th,[5] but the rapid development of the political situation here has decided me to telegraph the text of the declaration.

In a conversation with British High Commissioner he said that he was in doubt as to what effect this declaration might have in Egypt. I believe he fears Egypt may make claims for somewhat similar treatment.

GARY

763.72119/2890 : Telegram

The Minister in Greece (Droppers) to the Acting Secretary of State

ATHENS, December 4, 1918—10 a. m.
[Received December 5—12:50 p. m.]

623. I have received lately and especially on Thanksgiving Day innumerable petitions from Greeks for the redemption of their fellow countrymen from foreign governments, especially the Greeks in northern Epirus and the Dodecanese, from the Bulgarian in Thrace, and from Turkish in especially the Smyrna district. Most of these petitions in the original Greek, but regard the first two requests as wholly justified, inasmuch as population is largely Greek, and almost solidly so in the Dodecanese. As to Turkey, I see no solution to this question as France, Italy, England will all have a slice if Greece takes hers, so I much prefer to see the country remain as a unit, giving to non-Turkish population every guarantee, and removing police and finance from native hands. For some years we shall have the worst passions let loose in Asia Minor unless we settle question with a single eye to resident population. Colonel House informed.

DROPPERS

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[5] Not printed.

763.72/12552

The Greek Legation to the Department of State

[Translation [5a]]

No. 4181–4182 AIDE MEMOIRE

The Royal Government is daily receiving reports from Turkey which arouse in its mind a most serious concern about the fate of the Christians living in Thrace and Asia Minor.

Turkey having laid down her arms and the Allied fleets having cast anchor in the Bosphorus, the Christians who after centuries were liberated gave vent then to their joy. The manifestations of gratitude to the Allies succeeded one another uninterruptedly. That aroused [the?] Moslem fanaticism, a circumstance which the parties interested at once turned to advantage.

Thus the Turkish press continued to keep the people under the illusion that Turkey had not been defeated but had asked for peace of her own accord. The Turkish people consequently continued in the same taunting attitude towards the Christians whom they provoked.

Although its chiefs have fled the Young Turk Committee is still in control. Having at its disposal the Chamber and the Senate composed of its henchmen, it continues in fact to rule Turkey. Moreover, the Government is composed of the same personnel as heretofore, that is to say, is in the hands of the Young Turk Committee which in this hour still wields the whole power.

It would even seem that the power of the Committee has increased since a large part of the old Turks have joined the Young Turks, and formed a new party styled the "renaissance" so as to create an illusion that it was still possible to inaugurate reforms in Turkey and that the party to undertake the task was already organized. The only result that has been achieved is that the Moslem population is now united and ready to attack the Christians as soon as the word is given.

The Allied Representatives do not appear to have grasped the imminence of the danger, relying on deceiving appearances, on false explanations of the Turkish officials. They refrain from seeing to the strict execution of the terms of the armistice. For instance, the disarming of the Turks has not even begun. On the contrary arms have been given out to all the Moslem population for use on the Christian population when the word is given.

Bands of out-laws consisting mainly of deserters or of soldiers discharged with their arms keep the country in a state of terror. Crimes are being committed on a larger scale than in the past. The

[5a] File translation revised.

Christians are incapable of offering any defence as they are without arms.

The Allied commanders acting on the advice of Levantines who are known by everyone to be closely connected with the Young Turks, instead of assuming the only attitude that a Turk understands, a threatening attitude, keep on negotiating with the Turkish administration. For instance, they are in continued relations with the ex-Vali of Smyrna, Rhami Pacha. His men encouraged by this attitude of the Allied Commander at Smyrna behave towards the Christians in an arrogant way so as to create disturbances. Brigands walk the streets of Smyrna without intervention from the allied authorities who merely declare that they cannot take any action.

The Royal Government deems it a duty to draw the attention of the Government of the United States as it has done with the other Allied States, to the danger which threatens the lives of Christians especially in the interior of Thrace and Asia Minor. The massacre of Christians after the defeat of Turkey would be a crime. These people who have suffered so much for centuries are entitled to better attention now that the tyrant is overthrown. It is absolutely necessary to shield the lives of the Christians with positive safeguards. And this can only be done by having important centers in Thrace and Asia Minor, occupied by allied troops as force alone has any effect on Turkey. But that force must be seen, must be felt by the Turkish populace.

The Government of the United States has so often given evidence of its good will toward these unfortunate people that the Royal Government is convinced that it will kindly take into earnest consideration the awful situation of the Christian population and begin such action as may be necessary to save their lives. It is furthermore necessary to look into the repatriation of the refugees in Greece who are a serious burden on the Royal Government. This repatriation can only be attempted when their safety is assured.

WASHINGTON, December 6, 1918.

763.72119/3147

The British Embassy to the Department of State

COPY OF TELEGRAM FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO HIS MAJESTY'S AMBASSADOR AT ROME, DATED DECEMBER 13TH

While in London the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs communicated a memorandum containing the following statements:—

1. That a strong contingent of the Italian 35th Division should be despatched to Constantinople in accordance with the agreement for

the International occupation of that town which was settled some time ago.

2. That if Turkey continues non-compliance with the terms of the Armistice regarding Tripolitania, Italy will on her own account proceed to occupy some locality in Anatolia to which she is entitled, in accordance with the Inter-Allied agreement regarding Turkey.

As regards 1. You should inform the Italian Government that there has never been any agreement for the international occupation of Constantinople, and that the Armistice does not provide for it, and enquire as to the meaning of the Minister for Foreign Affairs' reference to this.

As regards 2. You were instructed on November 29th to point out to the Italian Government that the failure of the Turks to comply with the Armistice terms regarding Tripolitania offered no sufficient ground for action in Asia Minor without previous consultation with the Allies. In view of the Minister for Foreign Affairs' announcement that the Italian Government intended to proceed to occupy Anatolia without such consultation, you should point out again that such action on the part of the Italians will certainly provoke similar steps by the Greeks, and that His Majesty's Government in such an event would find it impossible to oppose the Greek claims to follow the Italian example. You should add that His Majesty's Government see no objection to Italian troops proceeding to Turkey and Thrace, and that the necessary arrangements to this end are being made by General Franchet d'Esperey.

WASHINGTON, December 16, 1918.

763.72119/3266

The French Chargé (Chambrun) to the Acting Secretary of State

[Translation]

WASHINGTON, December 21, 1918.

MR. SECRETARY OF STATE: My Government has just informed me that the representatives of the Allied Powers at Constantinople have suggested the following measures in carrying out Article 19 of the Armistice with Turkey:

1. The German and Austrian civilians numbering about 4,500 to be shipped to Trieste on German and Turkish vessels coaled by the English Navy;

2. The German and Austrian invalids to be shipped to Genoa on hospital ships at present under the Ukrainian flag, which would likewise be coaled by the English Navy;

3. The enemy soldiers (9,000 Germans and 1,500 Austrians) to be put on German vessels which would be summoned from Germany with

enough German coal to effect the voyage both ways. Those vessels, placed under an Allied flag, would carry the German soldiers direct to their country.

The French Government, fully realizing the necessity of removing those dangerous and undesirable persons from Turkey, is ready to accede to the propositions so formulated by the Allied High Commissioners at Constantinople.

I should be very thankful to you if you would kindly let me know whether the Federal Government is inclined to concur therein.

Be pleased [etc.] CHARLES DE CHAMBRUN

Paris Peace Conf. 867.00/44

Admiral W. S. Benson to the Secretary of the Commission to Negotiate Peace (Grew)

M–5/G PARIS, 29 December, 1918.

MY DEAR MR. GREW: Replying to your letter of the 28th instant [6] to which you attached a copy of the telegram from the American Minister at Athens,[7] stating as his opinion, that it would be desirable for the United States to send an Admiral as High Commissioner at Constantinople; I beg to inform you that this matter was taken up a fortnight ago with the Navy Department, and by that Department was taken up with the Department of State.[8]

I have since been informed that the view of the Department of State is that it will be unnecessary to send an officer of high rank to Constantinople at the present time, but that a Flag Officer should be sent with a station-ship at Salonica. In conformance with this policy the U. S. S. *Nahma* has been ordered to Salonica and Rear-Admiral M. L. Bristol has been directed to proceed to that port and to hoist his flag on the *Nahma*.

Sincerely yours, W. S. BENSON

763.72119/2861

The Acting Secretary of State to the Swiss Minister (Sulzer)

No. 351 WASHINGTON, January 2, 1919.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 30th ult. [*November 30, 1918*] [7] transmitting a communication

[6] Not found in Department files.
[7] Not printed.
[8] For papers previously printed on the subject of the appointment of an American Commissioner at Constantinople, see *Foreign Relations*, 1919, vol. II, pp. 810 ff.

from the German Government [10] concerning German civilians in Turkey.

In that communication the German Government states Art. XIX of the Anglo-Turkish armistice provides that all civilians of German nationality must leave the Ottoman Empire; that if this provision be enforced the German hospitals and asylums for the blind and orphans, the latter of which principally take care of Armenian children, will be compelled to close, thereby causing new sufferings in the Christian population of the Ottoman Empire. The German Government therefore requests that the President should intervene in favor of the German civilians being permitted to remain in Turkey.

In reply I beg to inform you that as the United States Government was not one of the signatories of the above mentioned armistice, it does not feel warranted in transmitting to the Entente Powers any communication from the German Government in favor of any Germans in Turkey.

As regards the hospitals and asylums for the blind and orphans, the latter of which, according to the German communication, principally take care of Armenian children, the Department of State is informed that practically all the funds expended for such children are furnished by American Missionary or other philanthropic organizations, and that German civilians connected with such hospitals or asylums can turn over the work and whatever funds they may have in hand to the nearest American Missionaries or their Armenian associates. In this way the charitable work may continue undisturbed.

In conclusion I have the honor to assure you that this Government notes with interest that the German Government is now evidencing concern in the welfare of the Christian population of the Ottoman Empire and that it is now expressing the desire that this population be spared new sufferings.

Accept [etc.] FRANK L. POLK

Paris Peace Conf. 867.00/48 : Telegram

The American Commissioner at Constantinople (Heck) to the Ambassador in France (Sharp)

PERA, January 4, 1919—5 p. m.
[Received January 9—3 : 15 p. m.]

No. 1. Political. At the present time ordinary government activities of country are badly disorganized. Tewfick Pasha cabinet con-

[10] Same as second wireless message of Nov. 15, 1918, from the German Government, quoted in telegram No. 38, Nov. 16, 1918, noon, to Colonel House, p. 18.

tains no prominent or really able men and has no real hold on country, great majority of officials being still members of C. U. P. organization.[11] Army officers are also in the main commanded by men [*sic*]. Orders issued by Constantinople therefore often receive but scant consideration in the provinces and public safety is very poor throughout Asia Minor.

Supported by Sultan, the Cabinet last week dissolved Parliament and promised to soon arrange for new elections, but in present circumstances the C. U. P. would be almost certain to succeed, as they have the only political organization covering the entire country and elections are considered improbable for immediate future. Dissolved Parliament had a great majority of Committee members, and its continual attacks on the Cabinet rendered the latter's task impossible, so that in general dissolution was favorably received. Government has taken over several of the banking and commercial enterprises established by the Committee and has seized some of its archives, thus indicating intention of endeavoring to maintain political control. So far, Allied representatives here have strictly observed terms of armistice, but with steady weakening of Governmental authority, more drastic measures will soon be required and a military occupation within the next few weeks is not unlikely.

Cabinet has adopted some measures to aid and to repatriate deported Christians, but their situation is very bad in all parts of the country. It would be advisable for most Armenians to remain where they are until spring, or until future status of Armenian State is defined, but they are already beginning to return to their homes, only to find these destroyed or occupied by Napa [*sic*] immigrants. The Fuller [*Barton?* [12]] Expedition expected from America is anxiously awaited. This expedition should be self-contained as to all transportation, as railway traffic has entirely stopped on account of lack of coal. Suggest for a consideration, whether some of Army automobiles now parked at switching [?] could not be turned over to this relief expedition.

Food situation of Constantinople continues uncertain, but main problem here is coal. With all importations of German coal stopped, and Black Sea mines badly wrecked, local public service has at times been entirely suspended for lack of fuel. Conditions here November slightly better, and production of Turkish mines is slowly being increased. Trains are now moving for transportation of [disbanded?] soldiers and to bring food to Constantinople, as plentiful supplies of grain are reported to be along the Anatolia railway. Reports from

[11] i. e., Committee of Union and Progress.

[12] Possibly a reference to Dr. James L. Barton, director of the American Commission for Relief in the Near East.

some interior districts, especially Black Sea littoral indicate precarious food conditions.

Conditions of Armistice are being gradually executed and German and Austro-Hungarian troops under Von Sanders are interned on the Princes Islands in the launches [*sic*].

There is a large mushroom press in all languages but a political censorship has been established on the ground that it is necessary to curb conflicting political propaganda. The Armenians have on the whole behaved well and have been moderate in their claims avoiding all agitation which might provoke further trouble in the interior. Such prudence is essential in view of poor public security and danger of further outrages. The landing at Mersine of a large number of Armenians with French troops is claimed by the Turkish Armistice Commission to be a direct provocation and very likely will lead to troubles in the Asia Minor district where Turkish population is much aroused. If an independent Armenia is to be established, official announcement should be kept in abeyance until either a firm Allied Military Control is established in Asia Minor, or until a large number of the persons guilty of the previous massacres have been placed under arrest in order show to the Turkish population the danger of indulgence in further massacres.

On the other hand, the Greeks are very extravagant in their claims which include the city of Constantinople. They have sent here Naval and Military forces, and local Greek population has been provocative towards the Turks, although so far, there have been no serious disorders between the two elements.

General attitude among Turks is one of hopeless[ness], waiting the outcome of the Peace Conference. They resent permission accorded to Armenians and other racial elements to send representatives to Paris while such permission has been refused to them. As publicly expressed, their chief hope is in the application of the President's principles of nationality and self-determination, as they feel that other Allied Powers are likely to be more severe than the United States. An Armenian delegation of two members is about to proceed to Paris, consisting of Archbishop Tourian and Professor Hagopian of Robert College. At present Turks are trying to create friction between British and French by praising the former, and criticizing latter at every opportunity. However large French investments and financial interests in the country are counted on in some circles to secure French support for the future maintenance of independent Turkish Government.

Financially, the situation is becoming more and more critical as the revenues of Government are decreasing and paper money is no longer issued. Exchange value of Turkish paper money has been

going lower every day since the removal of Government control over foreign exchange, and absolute uncertainty as to the future of this currency, based upon German credit, still prevails here. All business and industries except a few essential trades and the supply of foodstuffs are at entire stand-still, but with lifting of blockade there will be great demand for foreign goods as old stocks are entirely cleared out. British, French and Italians are planning to take advantage of opportunities, representative of the British Trade Corporation having just arrived here.

Nothing new to report concerning American interests in Turkey, but we are cut off from Syria and Palestine, so that the situation there should be followed from Egypt. The institutions here and Smyrna have not been seriously molested at any time, and have maintained their activities. Certain institutions which were seized by the Turkish authorities at Marsovan, Cesarea, Konia, are now being vacated by the Turks.

Please repeat to Washington as my number 7.

HECK

Paris Peace Conf. 861g.00/2

Professor W. L. Westermann to Mr. William C. Bullitt

[PARIS,] 7 January, 1919.

A Memorandum has come from the American Embassy in London [18] containing a letter signed by the Delegate of the Georgian Government, concerning the claims of Georgia to recognition as an independent state.

It is of interest to note that the Georgian Government is now advancing a claim to the Sandjak of Lazistan, which is the eastern section of the Trebizond Vilayet. Regarding this portion of the former Turkish Empire, I wrote you a note last week, suggesting this very thing as quite desirable on ethnographic lines. The Georgians also set up a claim to the district of Olti and the district of Ardahan in the province of Kars in Trans-Caucasia which, by the general agreement between the Georgian, Azerbaidjan and the Armenian Republics of Trans-Caucasia, had been temporarily assigned to Armenia.

It is a hopeful sign that these different republics are beginning to crystallize their desires and are willing to present these difficulties to the Peace Conference for consideration and decision.

[18] Not printed.

763.72119/3116

The Acting Secretary of State to the Italian Chargé (Valentino)

WASHINGTON, January 22, 1919.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Note of November 19, 1918, transmitting a memorandum regarding the situation in Tripoli arising out of the reported violation of the armistice by Turkey, and stating that the Italian Government would appreciate it if the American Government would approach the British Government with the view of having Turkey keep faith to her engagements.

In reply I have the honor to inform you that as the United States is not at war with Turkey and is not a party to the armistice it is unable to take the requested action in this matter.

Accept [etc.] FRANK L. POLK

763.72119/3478

The Acting Secretary of State to the French Chargé (Chambrun)

WASHINGTON, February 6, 1919.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of December 21, 1918, in which you inform me that your Government has advised you that the representatives of the Allied Powers at Constantinople have suggested certain measures for the removal of German and Austrian subjects in that capital in carrying out Article 19 of the Armistice with Turkey. You inquire whether the Government of the United States is inclined to concur in these measures.

In reply I beg to inform you that, although the United States is deeply interested in the determination of all questions relating to the permanent settlement of Turkish affairs, this particular question appears to be a military question relative to the carrying out of the armistice with Turkey, with which this Government not being at war with Turkey or a party to the armistice is not immediately concerned.

Accept [etc.] FRANK L. POLK