

66TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ DOCUMENT
No. 266 }

CONDITIONS IN THE NEAR EAST

REPORT OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY MISSION TO ARMENIA

By

MAJ. GEN. JAMES G. HARBORD

U. S. ARMY

(APPENDIX ONLY)



PRESENTED BY MR. LODGE

APRIL 13, 1920.—Ordered to be printed

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1920

has no relation with this State and is not interested in it. The knowledge concerning it is derived from rumors and indirect information. We have, however, as much to be a fact that the Armenians in the new State are carrying on operations in view of exterminating the Mohammedan element in Asia Minor in order to free the Armenian race everywhere. We have had copies of these orders under our eye. That the Armenians of Russia are following a policy of extermination against the Mohammedans and this war of religious progress has moved right up to the frontier is also established by the fact of the presence within our borders of numerous Mohammedans fleeing from death on the other side. The government of Russia has on the other hand, resorted to direct acts of persecution such as the practice of grinding the edge of the border.

Although the cause of these events the English encouraged on the one hand the Armenians in the attitude adopted by them against the Mohammedans as well as stirred them up to it and, on the other hand, encouraging in on the part of the former and describing them as persecutors, they acted up to it by attacking the neighboring State. But we, putting up with the Armenian provocations, turned a deaf ear to the indignation of the English, feeling sure that the truth would make itself known soon enough. As a matter of fact we thought we could count on the attitude of the English being so kind as to give an attack against Armenia, the idea of meeting a situation of which they would find themselves to demand that we make some kind of response. All these movements of the English were stopped by their officers and representatives after they saw that they were obliged to evacuate Armenia.

We have that nothing is taking place between the Armenians and the foreign Armenians. We perceive that the reason for this is the refusal of the Armenians to join the alliance concluded between the Armenians and the Europeans against England's progress. Russia, who is trying to push westward.

It is quite certain that the Mohammedans of Armenia and Iran, and more particularly those living in the border regions should have reached a high state of excitement as a result of the news

reaching them daily of the massacres in Armenia and the sight of the unfortunate refugees having escaped death and whose condition is lamentable.

What was to their disappointment is the position of the Armenians within our border. But our organization has succeeded in appeasing them and all likelihood of violent reaction on their part has been ruled out.

10. Following from going to the assistance of the unfortunate Mohammedan population in Armenia and from collaborating with the Mohammedans of Azerbaijan, we consider it indispensable to render our arms and stay in the task of securing the future existence and welfare of the Fatherland and Nation, within the borders already defined. We are in effect convinced that Persia is a gathering storm. We consider that, by dispersing our material and moral forces in the pursuit of changing a long distance from our frontiers, we will only weaken the strength we require for defending the west of the border and religious which is the heart of our Fatherland and the heart of our nation.