

AMERICAN CONSULATE*

No. 271

Smyrna, Turkey
February 4, 1915.

Subject: Political Conditions in the Smyrna District

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that lawless Turkish bands are appearing in increasing numbers in this district and are spreading a reign of terror among the Christians of all races.

The latest exploit occurred at Djinli Keuy, near Odemish on the night of January 30, at the Antimony Mine exploited by Mr. James Wilkinson, for many years Deputy Consul-General of the United States at Smyrna. The house of Mr. Abraham, the manager, a British subject, was attacked by a number of men, variously estimated at from 9 to 15, who fired through the windows, slightly wounding the two children of Mr. Abraham. A ball also passed through the head of their servant, a girl of 15 years, destroying both her eyes. Mr. Abraham defended the house for some time with a Winchester, and finally the villagers came to his rescue and the marauders left, after having set fire to one of the warehouses.

Before beginning this attack, they shot and killed a Greek at a neighboring village, and wounded one of the mine employees in the leg.

There are various rumors as to the composition of this and similar bands. One is that the members are deserters from the Turkish army and the other that they are comitajis sent out by the Committee, which is really the government or the power behind it, to terrify and drive out the Christians.

American employees of the MacAndrews Forbes Company, returning from trips into the interior, report that there is great hostility to Englishmen among the Mussulmans. The Americans understand this from their treatment when they are mistaken for British. As this feeling is something new in this region, and is shown especially by the military, it is doubtless being artificially worked up from

* Source: NA/RG59/867.00/739

headquarters. The Consulate-General is therefore advising all Englishmen residing or employed in the interior, to come into Smyrna.

A gruesome incident, illustrative of the ferocity of feeling that is growing about here on the part of the Mussulmans, occurred a short time ago at Develikeuy, a small village but half an hour's distance from Smyrna. Six Greeks, who made their livelihood by cutting wood on a government tract and converting it into charcoal, were killed by Turks and decapitated. An American citizen, married to an Englishman, who saw the bodies, describes the sight as a terrible one. The unfortunate men had been tied, and their faces and chins were slashed as they had tried to bend down their faces to protect their throats.

It is needless to say that incidents of this kind are causing a feeling of uneasiness among the inhabitants of Smyrna.

The Turkish students in the schools are being taught a song, the refrain of which is, roughly translated,

“Revenge! Revenge! Revenge!
Let us kill, let us cut to pieces,
Let us swim in blood up to our knees,
Revenge! Revenge! Revenge!
Let us wipe the stain from our clothes.”

This translation was given to me by one of the American professors at the International College, where the Mussulman students have been heard singing it.

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

[signed] George Horton
American Consul-General

File No. 800
GH/EE