

AMERICAN EMBASSY\*  
CONSTANTINOPLE

June 3, 1915

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith, for the information of the Department, copy of a despatch received from the American Consul at Mersine, dated May 28, 1915, relative to the Political Condition of the Province of Adana.

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

[signed] Morgenthau

Enclosure:

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\* Source: NA/RG59/867.00/768

AMERICAN CONSULATE\*

No. 438

Mersina, Turkey  
May 28, 1915.

**Subject: Political Conditions in the Province of Adana**

The Honorable  
Henry Morgenthau,  
American Ambassador,  
Constantinople.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that locally the Armenian question has apparently had a favorable solution. Although several hundred Armenian families had begun to be deported from Adana, they were halted at Tarsus and near by points and in many instances permitted to return to Adana. The nervousness in Adana has consequently somewhat abated as further deportations have also been indefinitely postponed. Few deportations had been made from Tarsus largely through the intervention of the Parliamentary Deputy Sadik Pasha. In Mersina a Commission of prominent Moslems to determine which families should be required to leave purposely delayed its actions. The humanitarian attitude of His Excellency Hakki Bey, the Governor General of Adana who delayed action as long as possible and was consistently opposed to same must be pointed out. The postponements of deportations has caused much dissension among members of the Union and Progress Club in Adana, most of whom favored such measures and opposed the Governor General's attitude.

While many of the population of Hadjin were also to have been deported, nothing has been done as yet regarding them. Deportations continue to be made from Dortyol and few Armenian families are left there. Indeed these few are said to be anxious to leave also owing to the large influx of Macedonian refugees who are occupying all houses vacated by their former owners. Another Armenian of Dortyol was hanged in Adana several days ago. He was charged with delivering means to the British cruisers operating in that neighborhood. Strong circumstantial evidence is reported to have been offered against him.

It is to be hoped that the local Armenian population will be no longer troubled. The general fear of deportation and the hardships and losses suffered by those whose

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deportation was begun are sufficient to deter the Armenians from any action against the Government, even if such was projected. The Authorities are, I believe, convinced of that.

The former Governor of Mersina has now arrived at his new post in Cesarea. From his past conduct I believe that he will adopt a more favorable attitude towards the Armenians and exiles there than that of his predecessor.

It is announced that a certain Bessim Bey, formerly in Novi-Bazar, has been appointed Governor of Mersina. Nothing is yet known as to his character or the probable date of his arrival. The Hakim (Judge) is acting as Governor.

The Italians are naturally apprehensive as to the attitude of the Government and population towards them as the rupture of relations between Italy and Turkey is daily expected.

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

Edward I. Nathan,

American Consul.