

AMERICAN CONSULATE*

No. 13 (In duplicate)

Trebizond, Turkey, August 25, 1916

**Subject: Two announcements made by the Commander
of this occupied district**

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to send, as of possible interest to the Department, a translation from the "Pharos," the local Greek newspaper, of two announcements recently made by the Commander of this occupied district. Owing to the manner in which the third paragraph of the first notice was translated from the Russian to the Greek, considerable confusion existed among the Ottoman subjects as to their real status until it was explained that the Russian should have been translated as "having come under Russian subjection" and not "having become Russian subjects". Although the distinction is not made, the word "Greeks" used is understood to refer to those of Greek descent who are Ottoman subjects. Duplicate copies of the notices are enclosed together with the originals in Russian.†

With reference to the second notice, I may add that the tedious work of scraping the walls and uncovering the floors has already begun in at least two of the Mosques which had originally been Christian Churches. Ancient mural paintings and beautiful mosaiques are being revealed.

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

[signature unclear]
American Consul.

Enclosures:

Duplicate copies of the notices in Greek. [Not reproduced]
Duplicate copies of the original notices in Russian. [Not reproduced]
Translation of notices in duplicate.

801.44

* Source: NA/RG59/867.00/790

† Not reproduced here.

(Translation from Greek)*

A DECREE FOR THE FORTIFIED REGION OF TREBIZOND

No. 17.

July 30/August 12, 1916, Trebizond.

#1

The district of Trebizond has come under the domination of the Russian Empire and from now it is subject totally to its laws.

The Russian Laws do not allow attacks (offences) much less robberies and extortions against population, no matter to what nationality it belongs.

Greeks, Armenians, and Turks, having become Russian subjects,[†] have all equal rights on Russian soil.

Therefore I hereby give prior notice that all hostilities and old enmities must stop forever, and any person that disobeys this and my command, plunderers and extortioners will be punished quickly and shortly. I will banish them to Siberia, or I will deliver them to the court martial which possibly might sentence them to a death penalty.

I command you to furnish all your discords and misunderstandings between yourselves in a peaceful way. There has been appointed by me a governor of the district for the investigation of such cases and to whom you may apply in case of need.

#2

In all the Mosques, built in Trebizond by Turks, I allow services to take place according to the rules of the Mohammedan religion. Those Mosques, as well as their property, should be under the guardianship of the police. I prohibit services according to the rules of the Mohammedan religion in Mosques which have been converted from Christian Churches, on account of archaeological researches being made in them. The general supervision for the protection of these Mosques I entrust to my sublieutenant Mr. Mindjlof, Acting Governor.

I publish the list of the Mosques which were turned into such from Christian Churches.

- 1). St. Sophia (Church and Monastery of St. Sophia).
- 2). Yeni Djuma (Church and Monastery of St. Evgenios).
- 3). Orta Hissar (Church of the Gold Head Virgin).
- 4). St. Philip (Church of St. Philip).
- 5). Zeitinlik Djami (Church, name unknown).
- 6). Carabes Djami (Virgin of Gert Sla) on the seashore of Leondrocastro.
- 7). Ismail Papa (inscription can be seen), Dere quarter in the citadel.

MAJOR GENERAL SCHWARTZ

* Source: NA/RG59/867.00/790. Original Greek text not reproduced here.

† Should read "having become Russian subjects."