

TELEGRAM RECEIVED\*

ERH

GREEN CIPHER

Constantinople

Dated August 20, 1915

Rec'd August 23, 8:15 a.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

947.

August 20, 10 a.m.

My 936.

At the urgent request of Leslie I sent Edelman with relief funds to Ourfa. Turkish authorities refuse permission for disbursement of funds. Minister of the Interior requested me to withdraw both Leslie and Edelman but I refused unless he permit all belligerents to leave Ourfa and refused to withdraw Edelman until Leslie was recognized. Despatches from Leslie stated that treatment by Turks of caravans of deported Armenians through Ourfa outrages all sense of decency and that all Christians in Ourfa (#). I was therefore extremely anxious that all women and children leave there and upon my insistent requests Minister of War has permitted forty-four British, French, and Russian women and children to leave there [for] Alexandretta also promised that thirty who are on their way from Beirut to Ourfa will be stopped at Aleppo and sent to Alexandretta. There are also one hundred and twenty-eight British Jews from Aleppo at Beirut where they have been for some twenty-three days awaiting transportation to some English port. They are clamoring for prompt action and would prefer greatly being sent to Egypt. Turkish authorities insist that these women and children leave Turkey. British and French authorities should promptly inform me where I should send them on one of our cruisers.

MORGENTHAU  
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

(#) Apparent omission

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\* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/100

TELEGRAM SENT\*  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CIPHER

Washington, August 25, 1915

Amembassy,  
London.

Department's 1997, August 20. Ambassador at Constantinople telegraphs further relative to this matter. Quote. Upon my insistent requests Minister of War has permitted forty-four British, French and Russian women and children to leave Ourfa for Alexandretta, also promised that thirty who are on their way from Beirut to Ourfa will be stopped at Aleppo and sent to Alexandretta. There are also one hundred and twenty-eight British Jews from Aleppo at Beirut where they have been for twenty-three days awaiting transportation to some English port. They are clamoring for prompt action and would prefer greatly being sent to Egypt. Turkish authorities insist that these women and children leave Turkey. British and French authorities should promptly inform me where I should send them. Unquote.

[signed] Lansing

Same to Paris Embassy,  
referring to Department's 1041.

867.4016/100  
3 AHP/RBP

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\* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/100