

AMERICAN EMBASSY*
CONSTANTINOPLE

August 15, 1915

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith for the information of the Department copies, in duplicate, of a despatch dated August 7, 1915, received from the American Consul at Mersine, relative to the Armenian deportations.

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

[signed] Morgenthau

Enclosure: copies in duplicate, dated August 7

* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/124

AMERICAN CONSULATE*

Copy.
No. 467

Mersina, Turkey, August 7, 1915

The Honorable
Henry Morgenthau,
American Ambassador,
Constantinople, Turkey.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that two days ago an order was received here for the immediate deportation of the entire Armenian population of Mersina consisting of about 1,800 souls. Yesterday nearly three hundred persons were sent to Adana and to-day many more have been ordered to be ready to leave. In anticipation of their deportation the Armenians are selling all their non-portable goods for a song. Sewing machines sold for 1.5 medjidies, iron bedsteads for a few piasters, etc. The Government is allowing each person only a few metallics per day for food and transports only a little baggage. The present destination of the deported persons is Adana. Apart from their actual distress and misery the terror of these people is indescribable. Stories of the massacre of thousands of Armenians in the interior now reach here. Some of these appear to be well founded but I presume the Embassy has been fully informed of what has transpired in the regions of Cesarea, Sivas and Diarbekir not to mention Van where the Armenians themselves are reported to be in control.

The local deportation order appears to have been hastened by the operations of some bands of Armenian outlaws who are said to have attacked villages near the border of this vilayet and Marash. The Vali has gone to the scene of the alleged outrages. The coincident arrival of six British and French warships at Alexandretta several days ago is stated to be connected with this matter.

A German orphanage at Harounie has been ordered closed by the authorities and the Americans here are apprehensive of similar action towards them if the deportations continue. For the present however the authorities show every consideration to the American institutions and their inmates. The two American

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ladies are still in Hadjin and again write that they prefer to remain there for the present rather than assume the risk of travel as the outlaws are active in that neighborhood.

A French warship visited this port yesterday but left without taking any action.

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

(Signed): Edward I. Nathan
American Consul

800.