

TELEGRAM RECEIVED\*

WSB

GREEN AND BLUE

From: Constantinople  
Dated September 24, 1915,  
Recd. 27th, 11:20 A.M.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

1080, September 24, 12 noon.

Can use most advantageously one hundred thousand dollars and more for the purposes mentioned. On strength of implied encouragement in your 1092 I at once authorized missionaries at Konitsa [Konia], Adana, Tarsus and Ourfa to increase relief work from funds your 978. When money assured I shall also use consuls of Aleppo and Damascus as distributors. The condition is simply appalling. Hundreds of thousands, many of whom were prosperous graduates, stripped of all their belongings some even of the clothing they were wearing and are in the fields without shelter and will die of hunger, fatigue, exposure, disease unless help is immediately and systematically extended before they are exposed to the severity of winter. Dr. Dodd writes from Konia: “[We admit] from the side street daily three hundred into our compound and feed them. The crowd outside the gate is a terrible sight in their fight for bread tickets. After distributing one hundred tickets today I came back dirty and bruised from head to foot and exhausted from struggle. Fifty hands were snatching at every ticket. They fought each other for the tickets. A hungry-mad mob is a terrible thing.” Dr. Post writes: “Last week I found that over one hundred men closely guarded by a few soldiers had been kept in a bare field near the station for forty eight hours. They had been refused permission to go to the city and being without funds could not buy anything from passing peddlers and except for some bread and water-melons that I was able to distribute among them they would have starved. One man had died and six were moribund and the rest looked as though few days more would end them. Only water available was from a dirty puddle at the edge of the field. Most of them had walked from Constantinople and had been beaten, kicked and robbed by the guards all the way. Almost all were wretchedly clothed, many were barefooted and one man had only a cotton shirt and a pair of trousers.” Post’s protests to the Governor and the poor unfortunates were sent away from Konia. I mention

\* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/145

Dodd and Post because they are well known and reliable but please do not use Konia or their names in publications as it would end their usefulness in Turkey. At other places away from the railroad conditions are even worse. One hundred thousand dollars carefully administered will make a good start but will not suffice. I implore my friends to do their utmost to assist liberally.

MORGENTHAU  
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

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September 30, 1915

The Reverend James L. Barton,  
American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions  
14 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

Sir:

In reply to the telegram sent to the American Ambassador at Constantinople at your request on September 22nd, inquiring whether he could advantageously use fifty or one hundred thousand dollars at the present time for the relief of Armenians in Turkey, the Department has received a telegram from Mr. Morgenthau, dated September 24th, in which he states that he could most advantageously use one hundred thousand dollars for the purpose mentioned, and that while such a sum, carefully administered, would make a good start, it would not suffice.

The Ambassador states that the money received would be distributed through missionaries at Konitsa [sic, Konia], Adana, Tarsus and Ourfa, and through the American Consul at Aleppo, and that the condition at present is simply appalling.

Mr. Morgenthau closes his telegram as follows: "I implore my friends to do their utmost to assist liberally."

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[Stamped] Frank L. Polk  
Acting Secretary of State.

867.4016/145  
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† A copy of this communication was also sent to Mr. Charles R. Crane.