

AMERICAN EMBASSY\*  
CONSTANTINOPLE

No. 447

September 7th, 1915

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith copy and translation of the Memorandum which the German Ambassador handed to the Grand Vezier on August 9th, 1915, regarding the Armenian question.

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

[Signed] Morgenthau

Enclosure: as stated.

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\* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/174

Translation.\*  
**MEMORANDUM**

By its memorandum of the fourth of July the German Embassy has had the honor to notify to the Sublime Porte the point of view of the German Government on the subject of the expatriation of the Armenian inhabitants of the Anatolian provinces, and to call its attention on the fact that this measure had been accompanied in many places by acts of violence such as massacres and plunders which could not be justified by the aim that the imperial Government was pursuing.

The German Embassy regrets to have to realize that, according to information received from impartial and reliable sources, incidents of this nature, instead of being checked by the local authorities, regularly followed the expulsion of Armenians, so that most of them perished before reaching their destination. It is chiefly from the provinces of Trebizond, Diarbekir and Erzeroum that these facts are reported; in some places, as in Mardin, all Christians without distinction of race or religion had the same fate.

At the same time the Imperial Government has thought it right to extend the measure of expatriation to the other provinces of Asia Minor and very recently the Armenian villages of the district of Izmit, near the capital, have been evacuated under similar conditions.

Under such circumstances the German Embassy, by order of its Government, is obliged to remonstrate once more against these acts of horror, and to decline all responsibility of all the consequences which can result. It is the more obliged to call the attention of the Ottoman Government on this point because public opinion already tends to believe that Germany, as a friend and ally of Turkey, approves or even inspires these acts of violence.

Pera, Aug. 9, 1915

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\* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/174