

AMERICAN CONSULATE\*

No. 268

Aleppo, Syria, August 25, 1915

**Subject: Deportation and Massacre of Christians**

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit, of even date herewith, a copy of my despatch No. 353 addressed to the Embassy at Constantinople in reference to the deportation and massacre of Christians in this vicinity.

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

[Signed] J. B. Jackson  
Consul.

Enclosure: 1/, copy of despatch No. 353 to Embassy at Constantinople.

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\* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/186

AMERICAN CONSULATE\*

(Enclosure with despatch No. 268 to Department of State from Aleppo Consulate.)

Serial No. 353

Aleppo, Syria, August 25, 1915

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

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication dated August 14, 1915, addressed to this Consulate by Mr. James K. Lyman, of the American Mission at Marash, in reference to the existing conditions in that vicinity since the deportation of Armenians by the Government.

Also, a copy of a communication from Mr. John M. Herter of the American Mission at Kessab, Syria, received on the 23rd instant, showing the destruction of the work of said Mission from the same cause.

Rev. John E. Merrill, President of Central Turkey College at Aintab, Turkey, writes under date of August 17, as follows:

“In Biredjik all the Gregorian Christians and about a third of the Protestant community are reported by a reliable witness to have become Mohammedans and to have been accepted as such. The remainder of the Protestants will remain firm. the cause of this step was the fact that the methods in vogue at Diarbekir have been put into operation at Ourfa, and Biredjik being under the Ourfa Government, they fear that the same methods will be used in Biredjik also, viz: Calling the men suddenly, imprisoning them and then sending them to another point nominally, but really killing them en route, and then sending the women and children as refugees.”

According to a conventional telegram received by this Consulate from Vice Consul Edelman, who had gone to Ourfa to carry funds to the belligerents interned there, he stated on August 21 that a massacre had started there and that he was returning by the first train with a party of women and children that had been deported to that place by the Government. I immediately advised the Embassy thereof by my conventional telegram of the 23 instant. Since the 21 I have received another telegram from Vice Consul Edelman that he would return by the train of the

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25th instant (today), but no further information has been received from him regarding the condition there. This is quite natural as the Government would not permit an open telegram correctly describing the situation. As soon as Mr. Edelman returns a full report of his trip will be forwarded.

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

[Signed] J. B. Jackson  
Consul.

Enclosures:

- 1/ Copy of communication from Mr. Lyman.
- 2/ Copy of communication from Mr. Herter.

AMERICAN MISSION\*

Copy

Enclosure No: 1 with despatch No: 353 to Embassy at Constantinople.

Marash, August 14, 1915

Mr. J. B. Jackson,  
American Consul,  
Aleppo.

Dear Mr. Jackson:

As an unusually good opportunity of communicating with you has opened in the return to Aleppo of Mr. Speaker, I thought it would be well to acquaint you with certain matters relating to our affairs here. We will much appreciate your assistance in those perplexing problems:

The Orphanage. You are already in possession of the main facts in regard to the Government's seizure of this building because it was locally registered in the name of Dr. Macallum, a British subject, though admitted by the authorities at the Capital to be American property. The Embassy and Mr. Peet have for some time past, been working at this case and it would seem as if a satisfactory issue might be reached any day. But a new circumstance has arisen here which complicates the situation. You are, of course, aware of the general, forced exodus of Armenians from this region. From orders given, it would seem that this is about to lead to the scattering of the orphans. We can do nothing locally because the property is not recognized here as now belonging to us. It is now known as the Osmanly Orphanage, but if an order comes, in the near future, to restore the orphanage to us, what will be its value to us if the Orphans have been removed? Further, the scattering of the children would seem to directly contravene your letter to me of May 19th in which you state that H. E. Fakri Pasha stated to you that the children would be kept in the Orphanage, but, that, until the property was restored to us, they would be under Osmanli supervision. In view of this statement, could you make some representations to His Excellency as would prevent the present attempt to scatter the children? The imperative nature of this situation is seen in the fact that many of the children, who had relatives in Marash have been sent to them, and the Superintendents of the several houses, composing

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the Orphanage, have been informed that they must shortly leave Marash.

We are also in another serious perplexity. If this exodus of the Armenians continues our work will practically walk away from us, and the continued existence of this Mission will be highly improbable. In view of this possibility, will you kindly inform us as to the procedure to be followed in the closing of our buildings, so that the property may be secure. The American property in Marash totals at least \$50,000 in value; What steps are necessary to safeguard this? Of course, before anything is done, we will communicate with you and await your instructions.

You probably see a large number of the exiles as they pass through Aleppo. Their condition, even as they leave here, is deplorable. What it becomes later is a matter for the imagination. They leave here with practically nothing. They are unable to raise much by the sale of their goods as these only find purchasers at a ridiculously low price. We understand that the prices of food on the way are very high. Further we understand, that, in thousands of cases, nothing awaits them at their destination in the form of even a rude building. What is to happen to them? Could you pass on a request to the Embassy that the need of these people be put before the representatives of the Rockefeller Foundation, who are now in Constantinople, and their aid sought?

We desire to thank you in advance for any help you may render us in these matters. Thanking you for past favours, I remain

Yours very sincerely,  
(signed) James K. Lyman.

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Copy

Enclosure No: 2 with despatch No: 353 to Embassy at Constantinople.

Kessab, Syria

Mr. J. B. Jackson Esquire,

Dear Sir,

Our work will be entirely closed. Could you make arrangements for the two girls' mail to be sent to Latakia in care of Mr. J. S. Stewart.

It will be impossible to take along all things under the present condition, for instance, organ, bookcase, desk &c.

I think it will be impossible to bring Mr. Stewart here, he is sick, but I will take notice of all things.

Grain, about a 100 bushels, we must sell for less than half price.

These are our conditions.

Most respectfully,  
(Signed) John M. Herter

c/o Mr. Stewart,  
Latakia.

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