

AMERICAN EMBASSY*
CONSTANTINOPLE

No. 467

September 15, 1915

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith for the information of the Department copy of a despatch, dated August 26, 1915, which this Embassy received from the American Consul at Baghdad relative to the refusal of the Acting Governor-General at that place for the permission to visit British subjects.

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

[Signed] Morgenthau

Enclosure: as stated.

* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/194

AMERICAN CONSULATE*

No. 365
DUPLICATE

Bagdad, Turkey, August 26, 1915

**Subject: Refusal of Acting Governor-General for permission
to visit British subject**

The Honorable
Henry Morgenthau,
American Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary,
Constantinople, Turkey.

Sir:

I have the honor to refer the Embassy to this Consulate's despatch No. E. 363 of August 24, 1915 and to amplify same with the following details.

The Mr. Thaddeus spoken of is Mr. Daoud Thaddeus, the employee of Messrs. S. Lynch & Co. who has kept their books for about ten years and, if it were impossible to have him return at the end of the war, would prove a very great loss to this company. An Armenian employee of this firm, a Mr. Wartan, was also expelled with Mr. Thaddeus.

When the men arrived at the place of departure (having been walked through the streets from the Serai) it was discovered that only the wealthy men had provided carriages. The gendarmes promptly made the wealthy men each take another in the carriages.

The present destination of these men appears to be Mosul but it is reported the ultimate destination is either Ras-el-Aine (the last station on the railroad from Aleppo toward Mosul) or Deirbeker.

Some of the men sent were between 60 and 65 years of age and I am informed that the local government admitted that there was nothing found against them.

In discussing with my interpreter the conversation of the Acting Governor-General as reported in paragraph one of this Consulate's despatch No. E. 363, I learn that the Acting Governor-General stated not only that I had no rights as regards British subjects but also "that if an American had been arrested" I could not visit him. This matter thus appears to be very serious but as there are no Americans here, except

* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/194

the first and second dragomans of this Consulate in their official relation with this Consulate, his remark may not become effective in case of an American, but it serves to show more clearly the mind of the Acting Governor-General. The Acting Governor-General further stated that even in the case of an American who had been arrested, I, as Consul, had no right to ask questions of that person from him. Inasmuch as these men are not sent up for a trial, it is perfectly clear that the action of the present government is purely arbitrary.

I am informed that yesterday, August 25, 1915, more Armenians were arrested and matters have now arrived at that pitch that practically all of the Armenians are arranging to settle their affairs, believing that sooner or later they will be sent from Bagdad. Practically all Christians in this city now live in daily fear, at least of deportation, and I learn from excellent sources that responsible natives of Bagdad consider conditions here daily growing worse.

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

(S) Charles F. Brissel.
American Consul.

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Note: I am just informed that the clerks of Messers. Sasson & Co. were released on August 25th, 1915.