

AMERICAN EMBASSY\*  
CONSTANTINOPLE

No. 783

December 30, 1915

**CONFIDENTIAL**

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State.  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith two copies of a letter which has been addressed to me by the Armenian Patriarch, Monseigneur Zaven. In this letter the Patriarch sets forth the treatment to which his race has been subjected in most parts of Turkey, and presents the pitiable plight of those who have been deported and are still alive.

In conclusion, the Patriarch expresses, on behalf of his race, their gratitude for the moral and material help which they have received from the United States.

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

[signed] Morgenthau

Enclosures:  
As stated.

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\* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/255

Copy.\*

Constantinople  
December 11/24, 1915

The Honorable Henry Morgenthau  
United States Ambassador to Turkey.

Mr. Ambassador:

More than seven months have elapsed since History began to register the most horrible crime ever recorded in the annals of the human race, the carefully planned ignominious project of exterminating a whole nation, a project which alas has already been realized in such a large measure.

The Armenian nation as a whole outlawed and condemned to death was from the decrepit old people to the helpless suckling infant extirpated in its own most ancient fatherland, so that the perpetrators of this atrocious crime can now boast that not a single Armenian is to be found in the districts under their jurisdiction.

Hundreds of thousands lost their lives under most cruel circumstances, so that the mountains and valleys of Armenia were strewn with the mangled and unburied bodies of its unfortunate children. A nation which has for centuries been the pioneer of civilization in the Near East, today is doomed to witness the absolute destruction of all its precious monuments, of its flourishing trades, of its progressive educational institutions, of its possessions of all kinds. Its religion was scorned, its sanctuaries either ruined or desecrated, a large number of its clergy ignominiously put to death, a large number of people, even soldiers and officers who faithfully serve in the army enduring all kinds of untold hardships, compelled to embrace Islamism, young women and even little girls carried away and violated, those of the children that escaped death have been handed as orphans to Islams to be brought up in a religion not their own.

Those of the people still living, most of whom are natives of districts outside of Armenia proper, deprived of their possessions are wandering about and being driven into desert places, into districts the inhabitants of which have no affinity whatever with them in race, in religion, in language and in manners. This portion of the people that was not bothered and which hardly constitutes one fourth of the Armenian population in the Turkish Empire, after having given its large numbers of victims to starvation and to disease is now doomed to be decimated in the localities destined for its occupation.

We know, Mr. Ambassador, that you are fully aware of the details of these

\* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/255

unspeakable horrors and that from the very beginning you have made every possible effort to stop or at least to mitigate this great evil. The United States of America have always presented to the Armenian people the charms of the Promised Land where lives a nation animated by the sentiments of freedom, justice, charity, where now many thousands of our people find a sympathetic hospitality and whose educational and philanthropic benefits we have all enjoyed for more than half a century.

We are grateful that at this time when such a large portion of the civilized world is engaged in a deplorable and disastrous war, the United States of America turn their benevolent attention to the suffering Armenians and most generously render their moral and material help for their much needed relief.

Allow me, Mr. Ambassador, as the brokenhearted representative of a martyr nation to present to you and through you to the great nation of which you are the worthy representative in this country, the sincere expression of our heartfelt gratitude.

May God abundantly bless you and your Country.  
The Patriarch of Armenians in Turkey  
Arch. Zaven Der Eghiayan