

TELEGRAM RECEIVED\*

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GREEN

From Constantinople  
Dated February 15, 1916.  
Rec'd. Feb. 29, 11.55 a.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

1576, February 15, 3 p.m.

**STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL**

Your 1800, February 4, 4 p.m. During an interview with Minister for Foreign Affairs on the twelfth instant, I stated that the Embassy had learned of the sudden disappearance of Armenian steward of the American college at Marsovan and that another deportation would take place. I then took up Department's instruction contained in your 1140. October fourth, and 1800, February fourth, as to the destructive effect of the above anti-Armenian measures were having upon the feeling of people of the United States for Turkey and asked that assurance be given at least that these persecutions cease. The Ambassador had already acted in conformity with your 1140. The Minister professed that the Turkish Government desire to have the good will of the United States. He asserted most emphatically that all deportation has ceased and that no more will take place. With reference to the failure of the government to exempt Catholics and Protestants, he stated that when first the deportations were begun no distinction was made between the different Armenian communities but that afterwards orders were sent to exempt from deportation Protestants and Catholics. He added that deported Protestants and Catholics would be allowed to return. In this connection I mentioned the case of the dragoman of the American Consular Agency at Alexandretta, a Protestant Armenian who, notwithstanding the promises of the Porte to the Embassy and the instructions to the provisional authorities to leave unmolested, was deported and whose return the Embassy has been endeavoring to bring about. Minister for Foreign Affairs remarked that the man seemed to have disappeared but that he would again speak to Minister of the Interior who had promised to allow his return.

The Armenian situation which may be eventually greatly influenced by the outcome of the Russian campaign in the northeast is still very unsettled. Some amelioration is noticeable however and governmental activity appears to have been

\* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/266

largely suspended. American relief which is being quietly and unofficially administered continues to reach many survivors without local official interference.

Later: Your 1852, February 12, 2 p.m., just received and instructions will be carried out at first favorable opportunity.

PHILIP

AMERICAN CHARGE