

TELEGRAM RECEIVED\*

IHM

GREEN

From Constantinople  
(via Copenhagen)  
Dated Oct. 17, 1916.  
Recd. Oct. 20, 4:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

2186, October 17, 9 p.m.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Embassy's 2136, October 1, 8 p.m.

From report by eye-witness sent by Consul Jackson and from other reliable sources it appears that deportations accompanied by studied cruelties continue. Families are separated and scattered among Moslems. Clergy separated from their people, forced conversions to Islam perseveringly pushed, children and girls from deported families kidnapped. In order to avoid opprobrium of the civilized world, which the continuation of massacres would arouse, Turkish officials have now adopted and are executing the unchecked policy of extermination through starvation, exhaustion, and brutality of treatment hardly surpassed even in Turkish history. In spite of official opposition it has been possible to reach thousands and save their lives temporarily. But situation demands not only immediate financial assistance but active steps instead of formal protest. I therefore repeat suggestion in Embassy's 1948, July 15, 10 a.m., that Germany and Austria-Hungary be induced to force their Turkish ally to cease all further deportation and allow free relief work, as well as Mr. Philip's further suggestion in Embassy's telegram 2136, concerning forced conversions and the departure from Turkey of those who are able. Peet requests such part of the above as the Department may see fit be communicated to Barton who may use the information with some discretion.

**Strictly Confidential**

If such requests to Germany and Austria-Hungary are made through the usual channel and are found to be ineffective, which from information received in Berlin and from German sources here it is believed will be the fact, it is suggested if the gravity of the situation calls for such action and it is deemed advisable, that personal

\* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/299

letters reciting the facts, written by the President to the Emperors of Germany and Austria may produce the desired result. In that case publicity should be given such letters.

ELKUS

EGAN

AMBASSADOR

TELEGRAM SENT\*  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington,  
November 1, 1916

AMEMBASSY  
BERLIN.

Reports for many months past from official and other reliable sources show that the systematic deportation of the Armenian population in Turkey continues; that their terrible sufferings at the hands of the Turkish authorities are unmitigated; that thousands have died as a result of cruelties, massacres and starvation; and that it would appear that these awful conditions are the result of a studied intention on the part of the Ottoman Government to annihilate a Christian race. The true facts if publicly known would shock the whole civilized world.

Inasmuch as the United States Government is aware that the German Government shares its views with regard to relief for the Armenians, as is shown by the fact that the German Ambassador at Washington on October eighth, 1915, informed the Department that the German Government had protested to the Turkish Government against the treatment of the Armenians, the United States Government feels that it can confidentially appeal to the German Government for its assistance in securing an amelioration of existing conditions in the country of its ally.

You may communicate the foregoing to the Minister for Foreign Affairs with the expressed hope of this Government that favorable consideration and action will be given.

[signed] Lansing

867.4016/299

---

\* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/299

TELEGRAM SENT\*  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington,  
November 3, 1916

Amembassy,  
Constantinople.

Your 2186, October 17, 9 P.M.

A telegram was sent to Berlin on October 31st pointing out the continued activity of the Turkish Government against the Armenians, calling attention to the fact that the German Government has showed evidence of sharing the views of this Government by protesting to the Turkish Government against the treatment of the Armenians, and asking the assistance of the German Government in securing an amelioration of existing conditions in the country of its ally.

The Embassy in Berlin was instructed to communicate this telegram to the Imperial Foreign Office with the expressed hope of this Government that favorable consideration and action would be given it.

[signed] Polk

867.4016/299  
WP-RCH

---

\* Source: NA/RG59/867.4016/299