

TELEGRAM RECEIVED*

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GREEN CIPHER

From Constantinople

Dated Nov. 29, 1915

Rec'd Dec. 2, 6:15 a.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1334. November 29, 4 P.M.

Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs called yesterday and stated that Commander of Fourth Army had telegraphed War Office that American Consuls in Syria were busying themselves with Armenian affairs and that Minister of Foreign Affairs wanted me to instruct Consuls to discontinue this as it was interfering with internal affairs. Minister of War and Minister of Foreign Affairs have repeatedly told me that they object to Americans distributing relief to Armenians because assistance by foreigners encourages such idealists as the Armenians to further resistance against the Government, although the Government has admitted at other times that Armenians are not in a position to effectively oppose the Government. The Sublime Porte has requested me to permit Turkish authorities to distribute relief funds that I have received. I refused on the grounds that the donors wanted it distributed under my direction.

I am writing Consuls to continue to distribute relief through the American missionaries or other reliable persons and discourage Armenians from visiting the consulates, but otherwise to avoid any interference with internal affairs of Turkey.

MORGENTHAU,
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

* Source: NA/RG59/867.48/199