

TELEGRAM RECEIVED*

IHM

GREEN

From Constantinople via (Copenhagen)

Dated July 21, 1916

Recd. July 25, 10 p.m.

Secretary of State,
Washington.

1974, July 22, 10 a.m.

CONFIDENTIAL

My 1948, July 15, 10 a.m.

Peet desires Barton and Crane to be confidentially informed:

“That he has word from his German Relief Agents at Aleppo, sent through German Embassy, who report visits of their helpers to wide districts including Deir Zor and other places on Euphrates and in Desert. They have seen thousands of deported Armenians under tents in the open, in caravans on the march, descending river in boats and in all phases of their miserable life. Only in few places does Government issue any rations and those quite insufficiently. People are therefore themselves forced to satisfy their hunger with food begged in that scanty land or found in the parched fields. Agents found them eating grass, herbs, and locusts and in desperate cases dead animals and human bodies are reported to have been eaten. Naturally death rate from starvation and sickness is very high and increased by brutal treatment of the authorities whose bearing towards exiles as they are being driven back and forth over the desert is not unlike that of slave drivers. With few exceptions no shelter of any kind is provided and the people coming from cold climates are left under scorching desert sun without food or water. Temporary amelioration can only be obtained by the few able to pay officials.

Misery and hopelessness of the situation is such that many are reported to resort to suicide. Illustrating methods employed agents report gathering group of one hundred of children whom they placed in care of educated young widow from Hadjin. Two weeks later these children were deported and from two survivors found further down caravan route it was learned the rest had perished. House mother crazed by (*) of her charges was among deported moving on. Boat loads sent from Zor down the river arrived at Ana, one thirty miles away, with three fifths of passengers missing. There appears in short steady policy to exterminate these people but to deny charge of massacre. Their destruction from so-called natural causes seems decided upon.

* NA/RG59/867.48/356. Copies sent to Charles Crane and James L. Bryce.

In view of the fact that conditions are growing rapidly worse through continued scattering of people through diminishing vitality and decreasing resources, attention is most earnestly called to the suggestion in my above telegram. I firmly believe that only through committees composed of foreigners can relief work now required be adequately performed in these extended areas. Moreover, very presence of such commissions among deported would act as powerful deterrent upon this inhuman business which thus far found no check.

PHILIP

AMERICAN MINISTER
COPENHAGEN

(*) apparent omission