

AMERICAN CONSULATE*

No. 464

Mersina, Turkey
July 26, 1915.

The Honorable
Henry Morgenthau,
American Ambassador,
Constantinople, Turkey.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that deportation measures on a large scale are apparently to be carried out against Armenians in the cities of Adana, Tarsus and Mersina. In Adana over two hundred and fifty families have been ordered to be ready to leave. From Tarsus a number of families have already been sent and many others ordered to leave on short notice. All their real estate titles must be deposited with the local authorities and such personal effects as cannot be taken on the journey are inventoried and taken possession of by the Government. In Mersina about two hundred Armenians have been noted for deportation. Most of these are of the poorer classes but I am informed that the order is for the deportation of the entire Armenian population of Mersina and will be gradually executed. A member of the Special Commission on Deportations is here to superintend the matter. The President of the Commission went to Hadjin to complete the deportations from there. About one hundred Armenians deported from Caesarea to Syria passed through here last week. It is stated that no Armenian male adult is left at liberty in that city. Those who have not been deported from there have been imprisoned according to reports which reach here.

Apart from the misery and distress to the deported persons the effect of these measures on the province is incalculable. The loss of the best commercial element and the principal handicraftsmen is bound to injure local economic conditions. Special pleas on this basis have been made to the Government by various interests and even German financial and commercial interests notably those of the various agricultural machine companies which do business as well as the Singer Manufacturing Company and the petroleum companies will also be affected. Your Excellency had doubtless already been acquainted by Doctor Christie regarding the probable effect on the work

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of American Missionary institutions. One or more persons connected with the consulate may also be affected but probably our intervention may assist them.

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

(Signed): Edward I. Nathan
American Consul

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