

REPRODUCTION CANCELED AUTHORITY LETTER OF 1-8-58 FROM  
W. H. ANDERSON, STATE DEPARTMENT BY *Martin O. Justice*

Translation Bureau—3393.

Paris, November 15, 1919.

From: The Delegates of the Nationals of the Anzine.

Excellencies:

As Delegates of the Nationals of the Anzine, we have had the honor to submit to the Peace Conference various memoranda expressing the national grievances and claims of our fellow citizens.

We now take the liberty to call your benevolent attention to the deplorable situation of our fellow citizens who, more than one year after the Armistice, are still terrorized by the Turks.

In contradiction with the assurances of the Turkish Government promising order and security to the Christian populations, the information which we have lately received shows that the acts of violence and persecutions continue in the Black Sea districts. Arms have been distributed to the Turkish civilian population by order of the authorities, in all the coast towns, as well as in the interior of the country, so that the Christians, disarmed and defenceless, are still living under the threat of new massacres.

The various Turkish Governments which have been in power during the past year have not improved in any way the condition of the inhabitants, which is becoming worse every day. After the Armistice they enjoyed a certain security, although only in the coast towns, where the Turks realized that they were vanquished; but, during the last few months, as their crimes have remained unpunished, and counting on the indulgence of the Allies to avoid punishment, they have resumed plundering and assassinating as in the past. Thus the insecurity which has never ceased to exist in the interior has now extended even to the coast towns, where Turkish brigands, sinister-looking and armed to the teeth, may be seen circulating freely, constantly threatening our unfortunate fellow citizens, who are disarmed and without defence. Thus they keep them in a state of perpetual terror. This state of affairs has existed for several months.

867.00/468

Feb. 20 1919 - 2 -

The Directors of the Union and Progress Committee are still masters of Turkey, more or less disguised under various nationalistic disguises. Being enriched by the spoils of the Christians who they have massacred, they now possess large financial resources which enable them to organize and maintain bands of brigands to terrorize the country.

Some hundreds of thousands of our unfortunate fellow citizens who, before and during the war had taken refuge in Russia, in order to escape Turkish persecutions, started after the Armistice, returning to their country; they hoped to be able to live in peace and security on their native soil, at last liberated, in conformity with the principles which triumphed thanks to the victory of the Allies; they looked forward with emotion to their national liberation resulting from the creation of an independent Republic of Anzine in the same place where formerly the State of the Comacini or of Terzined had been thriving. They hoped to be able to resume shortly their peaceful labors, in order to live quietly and without fear of being disturbed by the Tyrant. Alas! not only this legitimate hope is not yet realized, but a great number of these refugees, natives of the villages of the interior, were not able even to visit their homes, on account of the bands of Turkish brigands which infect the roads and the country. After having languished for a long time in the various coast towns, living with the help of our fellow citizens, who were themselves sorely tried by the persecutions during the war, despairing and grieved to death, they again took up the path of exile, to the inhospitable Russian countries where they had lately lost the good situation they had acquired by long years of economy and patient labor; however, they prefer Russian anarchy to Turkish tyranny and massacres.

On account of this intolerable situation, we are obliged to utter a last cry of alarm and make a pressing appeal to the victorious powers of the Entente, in the name of the sacred principles of humanity, the most elementary charity, to take mercy on our unfortunate compatriots and to take a final decision in order to liberate them from the most odious yoke which history has known and which constitutes a disgrace to our century.

In the hope that this appeal will be taken into consideration, and that the governments of the Powers of the Entente will lend us their powerful support, please accept, etc.....

Signed: President of the National League of the Anzine  
in Paris. Socrates Geonomos.