

CLASSIFICATION CANCELED AUTHORITY LETTER
OF 1-8-58 FROM W. H. ANDERSON, STATE DEP'T
BY *W. Leasure* DATE *March 15, 1962*

INDEX BUREAU
APR 7 1917
DEPT. OF STATE

AMERICAN EMBASSY
CONSTANTINOPLE

APR 7 1917
DIVISION OF
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
February 12, 1917.

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INDEX BUREAU
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CHIEF
APR 19 1917

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

With reference to my recent telegrams concerning the deportations of Greek Ottoman subjects from the Black Sea Coast to the Interior of Asia Minor, I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of three communications which have reached the Embassy in this connection,

AS....

- 2 -

as follows:

- ✓ 1. Copy and translation of a despatch from the Consular Agent at Samsoun, dated December 9, 1916;
- ✓ 2. Copy of a letter dated January 8, 1917, addressed to me by the Metropolitan of Samsoun;
- ✓ 3. Copy of a letter addressed to Mr. W. W. Peet by Miss Mary B. Graffam of Sivas, under date of December 24, 1916, transmitting a letter from the Bishop of Amassia, dated December 20, 1916.

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

Abraham J. Elchup

✓ Enclosures:

As above stated.

(TRANSLATION)

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE.

Samsun, Turkey.

N° 195.

December 9, 1917.

Excellency,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your despatch of the 2nd instant:

" Second your telegrams received and departure authorized stop. Embassy requested recognition of Mr. Roy on twentyseventh."

and to confirm my reply of the 4th instant:

" Received despatch second his departure postponed".

I took the necessary steps with the Mutessarif, but meanwhile I learned from a sure source that for military reasons, all the Greeks on the Anatolian Coast up to a distance of 50 kilometers from the Coast of the Black Sea were to be sent inland.

This measure has been taken by the Government because many Greek deserters are in the mountains, who have been able to get into relations with the Russian fleet.

On several occasions Russian torpedo boats have landed near our city munitions and soldiers, which latter in company with the deserters render the country unsafe. Skirmishes have taken place near Tcharchamba and the Greeks of this city must be in relations with these deserters.

I understand that for reasons of military security, no objection can be made against the order of expulsion to the ...

-2-

to the interior, but I strongly fear lest a second Armenian question arise.

As soon as the matter will be official, I shall make arrangements with the German and Austro-Hungarian Consuls in order that they, or at least the Consuls from Trebizond, shall send guards with the different groups as far as their destinations, and I shall also give my Cavass to these latter in order that there be no massacres.

So far as I have been able to learn, a period of one month will be given to the expelled persons so that they may freely attend to their affairs. The German Embassy must also have instructed its representatives to superintend the matter as much as possible so that there may be no irregularities. It is for these reasons that I have naturally postponed my departure till later.

I will request you also to be good enough to telegraph upon the receipt of this letter " letter of 9th instant received ", so that I may know that this envelope has safely reached you.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest estimate.

(Signed): W. PETER.

To His Excellency

A. Elkus

Ambassador of the United States of America

etc. etc. Etc.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

(C O P Y)

His Excellence Ab. Elkus,
Ambassador of the United States of America,

Dear Sir:

Having in view the great and manifold services your noble and benevolent bounty has rendered to mankind without distinction of race or religion, always eager and ready to succor those who truly need support, we confidently submit to your kind consideration, as the representative of your glorious nation in our land, the following petition:

Forty four villages round about our town of Samsoun in the Vilayet of Trebizond have been destroyed by fire, totally or partly. Six thousand inhabitants of these unhappy villagers, mostly children, women and old men are to-day in utter destitution. Homeless, friendless and without proper clothing in this cold season they have crowded our town with the hope of obtaining the most necessary thing for their sustenance, bread. Our Greek Orthodox Church and the Greek community of Samsoun have done and are doing all they can to alleviate the sufferings of these helpless brothers, but the present war has rendered the circumstances under which we live so difficult that the little we are able to offer them is altogether insufficient to respond, even in the least, to their urgent needs. Besides these homeless villagers there are also those in the partly destroyed villages who equally appeal to us for help.

For the destitution of these unhappy people, noble Sir, we appeal to your Excellency to extend to us a helping hand. We have learned that your kind country has already thought of the poor victims of the present merciless war, in the belligerent countries and has provided and disposed adequate sums of money for their assistance. We pray most fervently, if possible, to find a means to provide also for these refugees
of Samsoun

- 2 -

of Samsoun a special sum of money analogous to their urgent needs and which will enable us to provide for their bread, clothing and habitation. We believe and hope that Mr. Peet who takes a keen interest and an efficient part in this philanthropic work will be kind enough to assist in the matter and arrange to give us the money every month that we may be able to use it properly and satisfactorily. If your Excellency approves of our plan and succeeds in procuring such a sum, Mr. King the American citizen who resides in our town and the Consul of U.S.A. Mr. Peter with whose approval we are making this petition shall be able to give you full information as to the right or just distribution of it among the above mentioned villagers.

To facilitate the forwarding of this money to us we suggest to entrust it to the care of the Patriach of the Greek Orthodox Church in Constantinople who will undertake to send it to us safely.

Trusting that your Excellency will consider our petition seriously and favorably,

I remain with profound respect,

The Metropolitan of Samsoun

Samsoun Jan. 8, 1917 (Signed in Greek)

(C O P Y)

Sivas December 24, 1916.

My dear Mr. Peet,

Enclosed is a letter written by the Greek Metropolit of Samsoun in regard to the Greek refugees from the villages in the region of Ordou.

There are over fifteen thousand of these refugees and as they have been scattered in Turkish villages for several weeks or months they are absolutely penniless and nearly naked. The cold here is much more severe than they have known and their suffering is extreme. The need between here and Enderes is awful, to say nothing of the rain. They often spend the nights in the open fields. The German Consul is much interested in these people and will help in every way he can. For the next three months is to be an opportunity to save thousands from actual starvation. In regard to these Greeks it would be the greatest assistance if permission could be obtained for ~~Greeks~~ here to distribute relief. Perhaps it might be accomplished through the Greek Ambassador and Patriarch. There are those here through whom it could be done. Many times they do not bring them into the city here, although those are very many, and I haven't a very wide knowledge of Greeks in this region. Something must be done at once. The Metropolit said when I asked about the poor in Samsoun "All the poor are in Sivas."

Cordially yours,

(Signed) Mary L. Graham.

(COPY)

Sivas December 20, 1916.

Miss Mary Graffam:

You doubtless know that many families from various places have been in this Vilayet since many months and at this day have not even their daily bread to eat. Many thousands of families have been coming from Tireboli (Black Sea Coast) during the last few days. I saw them with my own eyes, as they were coming like flocks of sheep for weeks on the high mountains amid the rains and snows. I reckon that with the refugees from Barboort, Ordoo and other places, counting in those from Tireboli, the number of those unfortunate Christians will amount to 20,000 souls in fifteen days. The poor people have been compelled in the heart of winter to abandon their towns in a miserable condition, poor, hungry, sick, old, girls, small children needing protection to save their lives from starvation, after escaping death on the way from cold and exposure.

I therefore apply to your kindly sentiments, and beg that you should write to Mr. W.W. Peet in Constantinople, who has done so much good to this country, and ask him to send you a considerable sum of money for monthly distribution among these destitute and unfortunate people.

Thanking you in advance, and praying that God may return thr goodness a hundredfold, I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed): GERMANOS

Bishop of Amassia.