Your Excellency,

We have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the memorandum we submit to the Peace Conference.

We take the liberty of drawing respectfully the attention of Your Excellency on this memorandum and are convinced that our requests will have the support of the great American Democracy.

We be to remain, Sir,

Your obedient servants.

[Signature]

Congrès des Originaires du Poilu-Lion.
Le Président.

[Stamp]

[Signature]

To His Excellency Mr. Robert Lansing
Foreign Secretary of the United States
American Commission to Negotiate Peace
Paris
To the Members of the Peace Conference,

Your Excellencies,

Several Memorials have been presented to the Peace Conference on the question of the Euxine Pontus. May I be permitted, however, to add the following, which is based upon incontestable facts and documents that may enlighten the judgment of those whose duty it will be to take the serious decisions in connection with the settlement of the world’s peace.

The region of Pontus comprises the Vilayet of Trebizond, a portion of the vilayet of Sivas (the Sandjaks of Karahissar and Anassed), and a small portion of the Vilayet of Astanazuni (the Sandjak of Sinope). It is inhabited by a population of more than 600,000 Greeks, to which must be added the 250,000 Greeks who have taken refuge in the Caucasus and in Southern Russia, to which they have emigrated since 1878, as refugees from the bad administration of the Turks. This quarter of a million Greeks are anxiously awaiting the liberation of their country in order to be able to return to their homes.

This estimate of the Greek population in Pontus is based upon the following facts:

The "Saalnameh," or official annual for the Vilayet of Trebizond, for the year 1908, returned the Greek population at 500,000 for the Vilayet of Trebizond alone. In 1912 the Liberal Government of Kamil Pasha, in official agreement with the Patriarchate, awarded seven electoral seats to the Greeks of Pontus, of which three were allotted to the district of Trebizond.
two to Samsun, and one each to Karahissar and Sinope. Thus the
Government of Kemal Pasha officially recognised that there were
700,000 Greeks in the region of Pontus, in view of the fact
that under Turkish electoral law one deputy to the Turkish Par-
liament was allotted to every 100,000 inhabitants. The Young
Turk Government itself was compelled to give four electoral
seats to the Greek of Pontus (two to Trebizond and one each
to Karahissar and Samsun) thereby recognizing polens polens
the numerical importance of the Pontian Greeks.

Basing on these different factors, the Greeks of the Euxine
Pontus may therefore be estimated at 650,000 at the lowest com-
putation. This figure corresponds very nearly to the statistics
drawn up by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which are based on the
number of children in the schools, and which give 550,000 Greeks
for the region of Pontus, exclusive of Sinope and Lazistan.

The total Greek population of Pontus, therefore, amounts
to 850,000, of whom 250,000 are at present in the Caucasus and
Southern Russia.

The Mussulman population of the same region is estimated,
at 1,085,000 of whom some 252,000 inhabit the province of
Lazistan, leaving for the region comprising Pontus proper 833,000
Moslems.

In other words, the Greek and Mussulman elements are very
nearly equal in numbers.

The Mussulmans of Pontus are of various races. Of the
total number, about 340,000 are true Turks, 200,000 are Surumi-
tes, 50,000 Circassians, 200,000 Oflos and 5,000 Stavriotics.

The Stavriotics are Christians whom the Turkish Government,
in spite of their protests, have compelled to remain attached to
Islamism. The "Oflos and the Tonials have never forgotten their
Greek origin. The Greeks were converted to Islamism about 150 years ago. They still preserve certain Christian practices. They keep the Gospels as precious relics, and their women know nothing but Greek, to the exclusion of all other languages.

During the Russian occupation they asked, through the medium of a deputation, to be allowed to return to the bosom of the Orthodox Church; but it was not deemed advisable to accede to this request, in view of the fact that, as I had, at their request, taken them under my protection, it might have been suggested that I had done this with an aim to proselytism.

As compared with these populations these are, in the Pontus region, 78,000 Armenians, of whom 60,000 are in the Vilayet of Trebizond, and the remainder in the Sandjak of Zachiasar and Amasia (Vilayet of Sivas).

The Greek character of the Pontus country has been officially recognised during the course of the war both by the Turks and the Russians, as well as by the Entente Powers. The documentary evidence which forms the Appendices to this Memorial bears ample witness to this fact.

At the time of the advance of the Russian armies on Trebizond, Djemal Azzi Bey, the Turkish Governor-General of the Vilayet, two days before they entered the city, addressed a letter to me, conferring full powers on myself and a council of three Greek residents, Messrs. George Postircoupoil, Paraskeva Gramaticopoulou and George Constantinides, who were to sit under my presidency (See Appendix No. I.) In conferring these powers on me the Vali said: "It was from the Greeks that we took this country; it is to them that we hand it over to-day. We deliver up to you also the churches which we have transformed into mosques. Transform them back to churches again, if you think fit." With
a view to the appeasement of passion, however, I deemed it best not to act upon this suggestion.

At the moment of the negotiations for the surrender of the city of Trebizonde to the Russian armies, I appealed for the aid of Mr. Heiser, the United States consul, who undertook, in the name of the Provisional Government of the province, in company with a delegate representing that Government, the negotiations for the surrender of the district of Trebizonde to the Russians.

General Vladymir Liakhov, the commander of the Russian armies, confirmed me in my function as Governor. With the assent of the General, I took the necessary steps for the carrying out of municipal elections, which resulted in the advent of a municipal council on which there was a substantial majority of Greeks.

Throughout the whole of the Russian occupation, no measure affecting the local population was taken by the military authorities without my having been, by order of the Russian Government, officially consulted. When the Russians degenerated into Bolsheviks, they continued to recognize my authority and to display their confidence in the Greek element. They earnestly besought me to remain, and I remained, in the endeavour, through the medium of a moderating policy, to save the region from Bolshevist excesses.

During the same period Colonel Chardin wrote to me, on behalf of the Allied Governments, asking me to organize a regiment of Pontians, thereby recognizing the influence and the importance of the Greek element in Pontus. (See Appendix No.2).

Throughout the whole of the Russian occupation, as well as during those periods when the region remained without any army of occupation, the various populations, without exception, never ceased to recognize myself and my collaborators as the legally constituted authorities of the district, and to display
towards us the most absolute confidence (See appendix No. 3). The Greek of Pontus proved themselves worthy of this confidence. They were able to assure the life and property of all the inhabitants, both Christian and Mussulman. In spite of differences of religion and the exceptional difficulties of the situation, there were neither disturbances nor outrages. The letter which I received from Yehib Pasha, the Commander of the 3rd Turkish Army, bears witness to this (See Appendix No. 4).

These facts demonstrate:

(1) That the Greek population of Pontus, after the return of the refugees from the Caucasus and Southern Russia, will be as large as the Mussulman population.

(2) That of this Mussulman population a large proportion is Greek by origin and has never forgotten either this origin or the Greek language which it continues to speak.

(3) That there is only a very weak Armenian minority in the region of Pontus.

(4) That the Turks recognised that the Greek were their only possible successors and the only element capable of governing the country, once Turkish authority was abolished, and that it was to the Greeks the Turks handed over the government before their departure.

(5) That the Russians, as well as the representatives of the other Powers, tacitly recognised the local Greek Government of Pontus, and that, in any case, they recognised the preponderating influence of the Greek element.

(6) That the native population of the region not only submitted to this local Greek Government, but displayed the most absolute confidence in it.

(7) That under the most difficult circumstances the local Greek Government and the Greek population were able to assure perfect order.

In these circumstances, it is just and right that the region of Pontus should constitute an autonomous Greek State, in accordance with the unshakable will of its population, who are determined to endure no foreign domination. The near neighbourhood of the future Armenian State and the commercial relations
and common sufferings of the two peoples constitute bonds between them that we would gladly bind still closer. For these reasons we are ready to welcome the creation of bonds of close cooperation between the two States, but on the express condition that each autonomous State shall possess absolute independence.

Thanking you in anticipation I beg to present to your Excellencies, the assurance of my highest consideration.


Chas. J. Noble.

To the President of the Senate.

Pres. Taft's message.
COPY of Letter from İNİMAL AZMİ BEY, Governor-General of the
Vilayet of Trebizond, to Monseigneur CHRYSSANTHOS, Metropolitan of
Trebizond, on the occasion of the retreat of the Turkish Army:

(Translated from the Turkish).

VILAYET OF TREBIZOND
Chief Secretary's
Office.

I am on the eve of the fall of Trebizond. After my de-
Parture a Provisional Government, will be formed, consisting of
the commander of the gendarmerie, the directors of the Police, the
Metropolitan and Wessar, George Postiropoulos, Paraskevas Gar-
natiopoulos, which will undertake on its own responsibility the
administration and the security of the city.

The officers, police agents and men under the orders of the
Chief of Police and the Commandant of Gendarmerie, assisted by the
other members of the Provisional Government, until the moment
the enemy enters the city, will ensure security, tranquillity and
real amity between Musulmans and Christians, after which in with-
drawal to the westward, they will transmit their powers, so far
as the order and security of the city are concerned, to the Provi-
sional Government, which will carry out this duty in co-operation
with all trustworthy and honourable persons.

All persons attacking the honour, life or the property
of the inhabitants will be immediately shot.

In view of the fact that everything which concerns the popu-
lation and the official departments has been left in good order
its preservation must be carefully watched over.

The aforesaid provisions are to be carried into execution
until the moment when the enemy shall himself assume the duty of
assuring public order.

(Signed and sealed):

İNİMAL AZMİ.

3 Shawwal 1353

P.S. - This order will be put into force after my withdrawal from
Trebizond.
Appendix No. 2.

COPY of letter from Colonel CHARDIGNY, of the French Army, to.

His Excellency, Monseigneur CHRYSSANTHOS, Metropolitan of
TREBIZONDS.

TIFLIS
22/24 March 1917.

Monseigneur,

In the critical hour that we are now passing through, the
situation can only be saved by the common efforts of all men of
good will.

In the Caucasus National Armenian and Georgian Army corps
are being formed. The Allied Governments are ready to forward
this movement by every means in their power.

The Greek nation, to-day our ally, as you anticipated, has
not been overlooked. On our recommendation the Government-of-the
Caucasus has authorised the formation of a Greek division, of
which the elements will be united at Kars, at Tiflis, and, I hope,
at Batoum and at Trebizond. The general who is to command this
division, and whom I know personally, has been designated. He is
General Ananie, who is of Greek origin, and who speaks Greek.

At Trebizond, Monseigneur, the success of the formation
of a regiment of Greek Volunteers rests with yourself. This
regiment is necessary, in the first place, to maintain order in
the city, and later for the purpose of co-operating with the
regiments of Russian volunteers and the National Armenian and Geor-
gean regiments, in the defense of the country against the Turks.

I am writing to you, Monseigneur, to ask you, in the name
of my own Government and in complete agreement with my British
and American colleagues, to place your great influence at the ser-
vice of our common cause and to assist General Kolosovski in the
formation of the Greek Regiment of Trebizond. I expect some
French officers in a few days, and I will send one to Trebizond
especially for the Greek Regiment. You may tell this on my be-
half to General Kolosovski, who has already nominated the Rus-

ian officer who are to join the regiment.

In case of need you may communicate directly with me by
telegraph, as has latterly done Mr. Jenkins, the American consul,
who will give you all information on this subject.

I do not ignore the difficulties of this fresh task. They
ard great, from all points of view, especially at Trebizond, where the situation has always been so delicate; but I am sure, Monseigneur, that you will overcome them all.

Will you be good enough, Monseigneur, to accept the tribute of my deep respect and my entire devotion, and permit me to say that France and all the Allies will be grateful for all that you have already done and for all that you can do for the future triumph of our common cause.

(Signed): Colonel CHARDIGNY.
Appendix No. 5.

Translation from the Turkish of a Letter addressed to
Monsieur CHRYSSANTHOS Metropolitan of TREBIZONDE,
by
NADIJ MEBNED, the Mufti, or Religious Chief of the Mussulmans
of Trebizond.

Your Eminence,

As you are aware, since the moment when the Ottoman troops
left Trebizond, the Mussulman inhabitants who have remained in
the city have recognised you as their protector, and have looked
to your benevolence for all measures concerning their protection and their security. You are also aware that
owing to the discord and divisions that prevail among the Mussul-
mans who remain in the city, a conflict has broken out among them
and they have been struggling to tear each other in pieces.

As a consequence, for the past two months I have suffered
imprisonment, together with other persons. Our wives and famil-
ies, on the one hand, and we ourselves here, on the other, are in
the greatest distress. We beseech you to come to our aid and de-
liver us. Have pity on our lamentable condition.

The zeal which you have already displayed has proved of
such benefit to our comrades that we are compelled to conclude
that there must be some special reason why Zikas Zade Abdullah Efendi and myself are still kept in prison.

I am sure that, whatever the reason may be, you will help
us to obtain our deliverance. In any case we are ailiously loo-
king forward to your efficacious intervention in our present dif-
finity. As you well know, Jesus-Christ loved to help those who
were suffering, and you, who are His representative, like Him, will
also come to their help.

Hoping in conclusion, that you are well,

(signed) NADIJ MEBNED
Mufti of Trebizond.

4 Hasiran 133
(June 4, 1917).
Appendix No. 6.

Translation of a Letter written in Greek and addressed by
the Turkish General Mevlâna Rıza Pasha to His Eminence Monseigneur
CHRYSANTHOS, Metropolitan of Trebizond.

General Staff of the
3rd IMPERIAL OTTOMAN
ARMY.

Sokchohir, January 31, 1858.

To His Eminence Monseigneur CHRYSANTHOS,
Metropolitan of Trebizond, etc., etc.

Monseigneur,

We cannot forget the noble and paternal protection that
your Eminence was good enough to extend to the Turkish element
of the population at the time of the retirement of the Imper-
rial Turkish armies and the entrance of the Russian troops into
Trebizond.

It is not less well known to us that, between the moment
of the withdrawal of the Imperial troops and the occupation
of the country by the Russians, the protection and the safeguar-
ding of the Christian element of the population, as well as the
entire absence of all disorder, were due to your Eminence’s wise
and considerate policy.

From the entry of the enemy into Trebizond down to the
twenty-seventh of February, you have been able to govern the country with skill
and wisdom, and we have pleasure in rendering you homage, while
expressing to you at the same time our sincere admiration
and our sincerest thanks.

We know from positive information that in the neighbour-
hood of Trebizond bands of Turkish brigands are disturbing and
maltreating the peaceable inhabitants of the Greek villages. This
has filled us with real indignation. As you are aware, Monse-
igneur, I have placed all the races living in Turkey on the same
equality and have made no distinction whatever between them,
in either race or religion, in carrying out my duty as Governor,
both as regards punishments or rewards. The conduct of these
bands of brigands is not in accordance with our principles of
governing, and can therefore be only of a purely local character.
The offenders of this misdeeds will be punished in due course, as
they deserve.

On the other hand I learn with regret, Monseigneur, that
certain young people in Trebizond have armed themselves, at the
instigation of the Armenians, and that they are disturbing the
order which you have established in the country. May these
people repair their faults as soon as possible, in order that
their repentance does not come too late.
I beg of your Eminence to show in the present circumstances as in the past - as I am profoundly convinced in advance you will do - the same balanced and considerate policy, for it is very possible that, while the enemy is retreating and before our troops can again enter Trebizond, public order may be troubled and the lives of the population placed at peril.

Your work, of which I confess myself to be an admirer, will be thus crowned with success, in asking, all danger disappear during this transition period. The mufti of Trebizond has already been made acquainted with the situation, and I shall be glad if you will place yourself in relation with him.

I shall be greatly obliged if you send three persons to the villages of Kayma, Arkhazan and Osman-Chané (Argyroupolis), in order to recommend to the inhabitants to give a good reception to our troops, and to supply them with supplies, the cost of which will be paid to them, in accordance with my orders.

Once more expressing to you my warmest thanks, I beg your Eminence to accept the expression of my highest consideration.

[Signed in Greek]:

VERIS
Commander of the 3rd Army.
Appendix No. 2.

Letter of General KIAZIM, To Mgr. CHYRSANTHOS, on the eve of the re-occupation of the City by the Turkish Troops. (Translated from the Turkish).

TO THE INHABITANTS OF TREBIZOND.

Through the Intermediary of His Eminence the Metropolitan.

We are compelled to occupy the city, in order to ensure order and tranquility in Trebizond itself, as well as at Rizeh and Surmene.

In order that this occupation may be effected within a given period, we have requested the Russian commander to withdraw as soon as possible and to evacuate the district and hand over the city to us. This he has agreed to do.

The Ottoman armies will consequently occupy Trebizond in the course of February 25, 1334 (15/26 February 1916). The Russians and the Georgians are our friends. Our effort in the direction of the occupation of the city constitutes no act of hostility. We shall not fire on anybody.

We shall repatriate the Russians and the Georgians in accordance with the amount of shipping available. I have asked the Russian commander to regard our operations with calm and sang-froid. No action of any kind, therefore, must be taken against those of our troops who will proceed to the re-occupation of Trebizond.

All persons guilty of contraventions of this order will be shot. Instigators will be similarly held responsible.

You are requested to bring to the knowledge of the inhabitants as quickly as possible that their tranquility will be assured during the occupation, and that they should remain within doors and await the end of the occupation with calmness and sang-froid.

It is formally prohibited to fire on any person whatever for any reason whatever. Any person infringing this order will be punished with the pain of death.

By the use of your influence on the population, endeavour to ensure a satisfactory result.

With my respectful greetings,

(signed:) KIAZIM.