THE ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN LE JOURNAL D'ORIENT ON 26 APRIL 1923 ABOUT THE DECLARATIONS OF THE ARMENIAN PATRIARCH IN ISTANBUL AND ITS REFLECTIONS IN THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE

Armenian question acquired another meaning when the Ottoman empire was defeated in the World War I. Armenians, who failed to establish an independent – or at least autonomous – state in Eastern Anatolia via armed attacks and rebellions, decided to reach their aims via diplomacy. Particularly during the negotiations of the Armistice of Mudros, Paris Peace Conference and the Sevres Treaty, which had never been implemented, Armenian delegations determined the borders of their prospective states by meeting with the leaders of Great Powers. However, all these projects were failed after the Turkish war of Independence and dropped from the agenda definitely with the Treaty of Lausanne.

The three documents presented below could be evaluated as the documents ending the Armenian dreams during the Lausanne Peace Conference. They included the declarations of the Armenian Patraich of Istanbul about the Armenian question, published in Journal d'Orient on 26 April 1923; an introductory report by Admiral Bristol announcing these declarations to the American Secretary of State; and a short note written by one of the diplomats of the Near Eastern Department of the Secretary of State, Alan Dulles, for the circulation of this article within the departments of the Secretary of State.

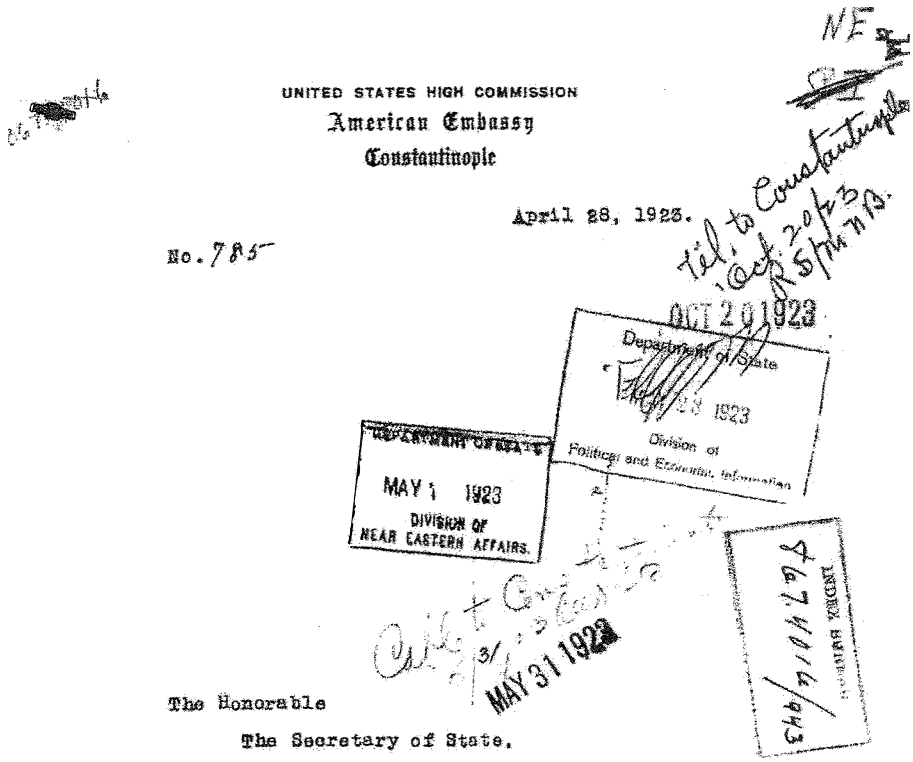
In his declaration, Patriarch Kevork Arslanyan argued that they wanted to live in peace and harmony with other communities of the Turkish state. The most striking point of his declarations was his acceptance of the failure of the 'Greater Armenia' dreams of the Armenians. It can be said that these brave words contributed to the Turkish stance in Lausanne Peace Conference regarding the Armenian question.

The article including Patriarch's declarations announced to the United States

immediately by the American High Representative in Turkey, Admiral Bristol. He, who had already prepared a report regarding the Armenian question, perceived the publishing of this article as a significant event. In his words, "the whole article illustrates admirable the present feelings of a leader of the Armenians thoroughly exasperated after the past few years of loquacious and long-distance altruism." In other words, with these declarations Armenians living in Turkey complained about the harmful efforts of the Diaspora Armenians.

As a young diplomat, who would be the Head of American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) between 1953 and 1961, Allan Dulles argued that the article sent by Admiral Bristol was of high importance and emphasized the complaints of Turkish Armenians regarding Diaspora Armenians once more.

As a result, these three documents were significant for the announcement of the perceptions of Turkey's Armenians to the American public opinion. Therefore, it was decided that these documents should be presented to the Turkish public opinion.



UNITED STATES HIGH COMMISSION
American Embassy
Constantinople

April 28, 1923.

No. 785

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

There is, in my opinion, much food for thought in the enclosed article setting forth the views of Monsignor Kevork Arslanian, of the Armenian Gregorian Patriarchate. This article appeared in "Le Journal d'Orient", a Constantinople daily newspaper, of April 26, 1923.

Apparently Monsignor Arslanian is prepared to deal with his enemies if he can only get rid of his friends from whose importunate humanitarianism the Armenians in Turkey may indeed pray to be delivered. The whole article illustrates admirably the present

feelings

CLASSIFICATION CANCELED AUTHORITY LETTER
OF 1-8-58 FROM W. H. ANDERSON, STATE DEP'T
BY [signature] DATE 5 May 61

feelings of a leader of the Armenians thoroughly exasperated after the past few years of loquacious and long-distance altruism. I have pointed out time and again to the Department the consequences of this altruism. The altruists escape and the Armenians and Greeks in Turkey pay the bills.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[signature]

Mark L. Bristol
Rear-Admiral, U.S. Navy
UNITED STATES HIGH COMMISSIONER.

Enclosure:

Copy and translation of
article in "Le Journal d'Orient",
dated April 26, 1925.

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Enclosure No. 1 with Despatch No. 785

COPIE.

Une Déclaration du Patriarche des Arméniens.

Mgr. Kévork Arslanian effendi patriarche arménien, accompagné d'Artine Mostidjian effendi, président de l'Assemblée laïque, a rendu visite hier à S. E. Adnan Bey, représentant du ministère des affaires étrangères en notre ville.

Son Eminence a exprimé ses regrets au sujet d'une nouvelle parue dans un journal local et d'après laquelle le patriarcat arménien aurait fait des préparatifs en vue d'un attentat. Son Eminence pria également S.E. Adnan Bey pour qu'une enquête soit ouverte à cet effet en vue d'éclairer l'opinion publique. Mgr. Arslanian nous a fait hier à ce sujet les déclarations que voici:

"Les nouvelles que l'on a fait circuler à propos du patriarcat arménien sont vraiment regrettables. Nous n'entretenant aucun contact avec les étrangers, et nous n'avons nanti personne d'aucune espèce d'autorisation. Si vraiment des préparatifs malveillants sont en cours, je tiens à ce qu'ils soient tirés au clair. Pour ma part, je puis vous affirmer qu'aussi longtemps que j'occuperai le siège patriarcal de détestables incidents dans le genre de celui que l'on a voulu créer ne se produiront pas.

"Les Arméniens vivant en Turquie ont compris la vérité. Ils sont animés du désir de vivre fraternellement avec l'élément turc.

Le peuple arménien s'est complètement désintéressé du "home national" et de toutes les autres questions de ce genre. Il entend mener une existence tranquille, dans ce pays, et respecter pleinement les autorités établies. Je n'ai aucune connaissance de la nouvelle d'après laquelle on songerait à créer un foyer pour les Arméniens, au nord de la Syrie; d'ailleurs, toute cette question n'intéresse ni moi personnellement, ni le peuple arménien. Celà est si vrai que nous ne nous en sommes même pas occupés.

Jusqu'à ce jour, on a beaucoup promis au peuple arménien, sans que jamais rien ait été réalisé. Peut-être veut-on essayer une fois de plus de se servir de notre peuple comme d'un instrument. Mais ceux qui désirent semer à nouveau la discorde se détrompent: leurs manoeuvres sont désavouées non seulement par les Arméniens de Turquie mais aussi par tous les arméniens conscients et honnêtes vivant à l'étranger."

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BY [signature] DATE 5 May 61

Translation.

DECLARATION OF THE ARMENIAN PATRIARCH.

Mgr. Kévork Aralanian effendi, Armenian Patriarch, accompanied by Artine Mostidjian effendi, President of the laical Assembly, paid a visit yesterday to His Excellency Adnan Bey, Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in our town.

His Eminence expressed his regrets in regard to a communication which had appeared in the local newspapers stating that the Armenian patriarch was preparing an outrage against the Turks. His Eminence also requested H.E. Adnan Bey to have an inquiry instituted on this question with a view of enlightening the public opinion. Mgr. Aralanian yesterday made the following statements to us concerning this question:

" The news which have been spread concerning the Armenian Patriarchate are truly to be regretted. We do not keep in contact with foreigners and we have given no one any kiend of authorization. If it is true that malevolent preparations are being made I desire that they should be brought to light. On my part I can affirm that so long as I shall occupy the post of Patriarch detestable incidents such as the one which is was now desired to create shall not take place.

"Armenians living in Turkey have understood the truth. They are animated by the desire to live in brotherhood with the Turkish element.

The Armenian nation has completely lost interest in the 'Armenian Home' and other questions of like nature. It desires to lead a peaceful existence in this country and to fully respect the established authorities. I have no knowledge of the news according to which a Home for the Armenians is being thought of in the north of Syria; this question does not interest me personally or the Armenian Nation. This is so true that we have not even shown any interest in it.

Up to the present much has been promised to the Armenian people but nothing was ever realized. Perhaps once more it is desired to use our people as an instrument. But those who wish to sow discord again are mistaken: their manoeuvres are disclaimed not only by all Armenians of Turkey but also by all conscious and honest Armenians living abroad."

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

Index Bureau RECEIVED MAY 20 1923 Dep't. of State

RECEIVED MAY 19 1923 Dep't. of State

May 19, 1923.

SECRETARY OF STATE MAY 19 1923

The Secretary
Mr. Phillips

The attached despatch from the High Commission at Constantinople encloses a most significant statement attributed to the Armenian Patriarchate in Constantinople. This statement indicates that the Armenians who are in direct contact with the Turks do not favor the type of agitation on their behalf which is carried on abroad, particularly in this country and that they realize that under present circumstances their only hope is to live at peace with the Turks. If Gerard, Cardashian, Montgomery and Company were people who could be brought to reason, I should be inclined to bring this statement to their attention but as they are not, I do not feel that such action would serve any useful purpose unless they should happen to call at the Department.

UNDER SECRETARY, MAY 21 1923 DEPT. OF STATE

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AWD/LVD