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SECRET.



No. 3.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

ENEMY TERRITORY.

14th April, 1918.

POLITICAL.

A report states that a certain Nazmi Effendi, whose brother was hanged in Constantinople in connection with the assassination, in June, 1913, of Mahmud Shevket Pasha, Grand Vizier and ex-Minister of War, arrived in Constantinople in January and was preparing a plot to assassinate Enver Pasha. One of his accomplices, however, betrayed him and his house was surrounded by troops. Rather than surrender, Nazmi committed suicide. Enver has been made very nervous by this fresh plot against his life as no trace has been found of the other accomplices, and he has sent three Agents to Switzerland in the hope of being able to obtain further information.

A Turkish Officer Prisoner of War states that two Turkish Officers were shot at a small village near Damascus for having organized a plot against the life of Enver Pasha, which was to have been attempted at the time of his last visit to Palestine.

An unconfirmed report from Smyrna states that an attempt was made recently in Constantinople to assassinate Enver Pasha. As a result, fifteen persons were arrested and shot.

The following report in connection with the Brest-Litovsk negotiations has been received:—

The representatives of Turkey and Germany discussed, together with influential Persians, questions dealing with the future of Persia. The Germans have agreed to endeavour to negotiate for the provinces of Urdabad, Nurashin and Erivan in the Caucasus to be included in Persian territory in return for the following concessions on the part of Persia:—

1. Persia to insist on being entirely freed from British interference in the British sphere of influence in Persia, and to disband the Gendarmerie.

2. Persia to grant Germany certain commercial concessions.

3. Persia to grant concessions to Germany for various railways, and particularly a concession for a railway through Persia, which would link up with a projected Turkish line from Mosul through Kerkuk (ninety miles S.E. of Mosul) to Suleimanieh (sixty miles due E. of Kerkuk).

A Turkish Minister is reported to have made the following statements at the end of February.

1. Turkey demands an indemnity from Russia, but the amount is not yet fixed. This money will be reserved for the construction of railways in Anatolia.

2. After the signature of peace with Roumania, the sovereigns of the Central Empires, Turkey and Bulgaria, will meet in Berlin to discuss the situation. The decision to hold this meeting was taken at the last conference between the Emperors of Austria and Germany.

3. As regards peace between Turkey and the Caucasian Republic, the Turkish policy is to conclude an agreement by which a Turkish Protectorate will be established in the territories which were annexed by Russia in 1878, namely, the region of Batum, Kars and Ardahan.

4. Autonomy will be granted to Palestine under Turkish Suzerainty, so that contact with Egypt may be maintained.

TURCO-GERMAN RELATIONS.

An Agent reports that three German Officers have been murdered in the disreputable quarter of Damascus. Every night the houses of Damascus are placarded with denunciations of the Germans. In spite of repeated efforts, the authorities are unable to discover the origin of these placards. It is reported also that the Valis of Aleppo, Damascus and Beirut and the Mutessarif of the Lebanon are intriguing against the Germans, and it is they who incited the people to oppose the German purchase of grain.

A prisoner of war, an Armenian Doctor, states that he believes German influence to be growing stronger in Turkey. In the War Office in Constantinople there is a German Department which is directly and independently in telegraphic communication with all the German Units in the Turkish Army.

The following is extracted from a Turkish N.C.O's diary, found among captured documents:—

"Dec., 1st, 1917. When we came to Rayak, we heard of an incident which had taken place recently. Four German soldiers went to Muallaka and Zahle in the Lebanon and were murdered by Maronites. A detachment of troops was sent from Rayak to arrest the murderers and captured a few Arabs whom they brought to Rayak. In a few hours a small Court-Martial was formed which condemned these prisoners to death and the sentence was immediately carried out."

An Officer Prisoner of War states that the Vali of Damascus has treated the Arabs well since his quarrel with Falkenhayn over the "Bedeljis" (men of military age who have purchased their exemption). Falkenhayn wanted to force them into the army, but the Turks, desirous of propitiating the Arabs, opposed him in his design.

A Damascus Newspaper stated March 4th, that the Turkish Ministry of Education had decided to send this year 500 Agricultural Students to Germany and 1,000 to Austria-Hungary.

It is reported from Beirut that great disturbances have taken place at Damascus owing to the high prices of wheat caused by the Germans buying up all supplies. Anti-German placards were posted on the walls warning the inhabitants that the Germans are deceiving the Turkish Government and causing distress to the people by taking the grain out of the country, and the people are told to be on their guard and refuse to deal with the Germans.

ARAB MOVEMENT.

It is reported from a reliable source that the Turks have sent letters to certain Sheikhs of the Beni Sakhr, Ghawarman and Sirhan tribes informing them that the Turkish Government would pardon all Sheikhs and Arabs of those tribes if they would forsake King Husein's cause, and that if they did so, the Turks would give them twice as large a subsidy in gold as that given by King Husein.

These tribes inhabit various districts of the Balka, Jordan Valley, Hauran and the country east of the Jebel Druse.

ARMENIAN MASSACRES.

An Armenian Engineer, who was engaged in road-building for the first 18 months of the war, in the Amanus mountains, East of Adana, and witnessed the passage of some 500,000 Armenian deportees along the route, gives the following estimate of the number of survivors:—

In the districts of Kerak, Maan, Salt, Amman, Jarash, and Ajlun there are 7,000 Armenian refugees. Most of them have been forced to accept Islam. In the districts of Hauran, Deraa, Muzeirab, Ezra, and Damascus there are 45,000. These have also been forced to accept Islam, but only outwardly; they are, as a matter of fact, allowed to go to their own Churches. In the districts of Beirut, Zahlé, Rayak, Hama, and Homs there are between 4,000 and 5,000. Of these more than half have embraced Islam. In Aleppo there are 8,000, and in the district of Meskena and Maghara 5,000.

Deir Ez Zor was the grave of 120,000 Armenians. Jevdet Bey, a brother-in-law of Enver Pasha, and ex-Vali of Van and of Adana, when he was at Ras El Ain, on the Bagdad Railway, saw 8,000 Armenian refugees encamped there, and ordered them all to be massacred at a place an hour's distance from the town.

DESECRATION OF BRITISH GRAVES.

A Turkish N.C.O., prisoner of war, reports that all the crosses have been collected from British graves, at the Dardanelles, and burnt.

[This report should be accepted with reserve].

ECONOMIC.

An Agent reports that at Beirut there is a shortage of grain owing to the stoppage of delivery from the Hauran. The price of wheat rose owing to a report that the Germans were to take over food control, and the price of flour rose by 23 P.T. per rotol (5½ lbs.) owing to a Damascus firm telegraphing to their Agents, in Beirut, that the Germans were buying all the wheat they could lay hands on, and at any price asked.

The same Agent heard from a native of the Hauran that the Government was requisitioning wheat from that district without considering local needs. The same thing had been done at Tyre and Saida. The Vali of Beirut told the same Agent that very great distress, and a general famine in Syria, was certain during the next three months, owing to shortage of stores and the stoppage of supplies from the Hauran.

The following table shows the prices of wheat and flour in Beirut, Damascus, and Aleppo:—

WHEAT.

Date.	Beirut.	Damascus.	Aleppo.
February 9 ...	80 P.T. (paper) per rotol (5½ lbs.)	—	270 P.T. (paper) per rotol=40/45 P.T. coin.
, 19 ...	100 P.T. (paper) per rotol.	—	—
„ 22 ...	£T. 105/110 (paper) per Kantar (618 lbs.)	—	—
March 1 ...	—	175 P.T. (paper) per rotol.	—

FLOUR.

Date.	Beirut.	Damascus.	Aleppo.
February 20 ...	107/130 £T. (paper) per Kantar.	—	—
„ 27 ...	—	160 P.T. (paper) per rotol.	—
March 2 ...	—	1,000/1,040 P.T. (paper) per sack (weight not stated).	—
„ 5 ...	—	800 P.T. (paper) per sack.	400 P.T. (paper)=60 P.T. coin per rotol.

The rise in flour at Beirut on February 20th was due to advices from Damascus of extensive German buying. The fall at Damascus on March 5th was due to cessation of German buying.

In a captured letter, written to a Turkish medical officer by his mother in Constantinople and dated February 5th, 1918, a list of prices is given. The information is of interest, as it shows that certain commodities and food stuffs have recently fallen considerably in price. The prices are given in shillings per pound.

	Former price.		Present price.	
Petroleum, per lb	...	78/-	...	36/-
Sugar	...	109/-	...	54/-
Beans	...	86/-	...	25/-
Bulgar	...	85/-	...	22/-
Tahin Helva	...	87/-	...	53/-

(Sweetmeat made of Flour, Sesamé Oil and Honey).

Two prisoners of war, natives of Damascus, who left that city on the 13th March, give the following prices of foodstuffs at that date:—

Bread, per rotol	...	36/40 P.T.	Damascus currency.
Mutton (boneless) per rotol	...	30 "	"
Potatoes, per rotol	...	12 "	"
Raisins, per rotol	...	15 "	"

The following is an extract from the "Lloyd Ottoman," published at Constantinople, 30th January, 1918:—

"It is expected that next week the navigation of the Black Sea will be regular. The administration of Ottoman Navigation has chartered two lines. Small steamers like those now in use for the Panderma Service will be used on the first line, and large ones such as the "Ak Deniz," the "Kizil Irmak" and the "Sham," will be used for the second. All these will go as far as Trebizond. Besides these, a large number of other small steamers and sailing vessels will be used for the coasting service. The steamer "Sham" arrived two days ago from Constanza with a freight of petroleum and cereals. Another steamer of the Deutsche Levant line arrived from Zongulduk with a cargo of coal."

Agents report that the German Lines of Communication Officer at Aleppo receives frequent detailed reports from the Germans stationed along the Euphrates on the harvest prospects in that region. A report from Ana on the Middle Euphrates, about 120 miles North of Hit, at the beginning of February was to the effect that, as things were, the coming harvest could not be in any way sufficient for the population, and suggestions were made for the distribution of seed barley and wheat sufficient to meet local requirements and avert starvation.

It is reported that at Aleppo, January 31st to February 14th, 1918, the authorities were taking over about three quarters of the wheat crop, and that this, together with extensive German buying, was making the prices very high. Most of the wheat crop of the Latakiah district was to be sent to Aleppo, Hama and Homs. [Note.—This presumably relates to the stocks remaining from last year's harvest.] Soldiers rations had been reduced, entailing much privation. In the City of Aleppo, forty to fifty persons were dying of starvation daily, and since January 1st the mortality from this cause amounted to at least 600. 70% to 80% of the animals had perished and there had been many cases of looting of shops.

ALEPPO.

Prices.—(£T. 1=130 P.T.).

Flour per rotol of 2 okes=5½ lb.	P.T. 70/75.
Meat " " "	P.T. 100/130.

Exchange (Aleppo).

	Pre-War.	Present value in Silver.	Present value in Nickel.
£1 gold	127	147½	150 -152½
Napoleon	111	120	122½-125
£Stg. 1	139	140	145 -147½
£T. 1 (paper)	—	25	27

LATAKIEH.

Prices.—(£T. 1=115 PT.).

Wheat per rotol of 2 okes=5½ lbs. P.T. 21.

Transport from Latakiah to Aleppo costs £T. 15 per Kantar of 200 okes.

A Damascus newspaper states, February 4th, 1918, that a large supply of cotton, woollen, and silk fabrics had arrived in Constantinople from Germany and Austria, and prices had fallen in consequence.

FINANCIAL.

The Constantinople newspaper, "Hilal," announced, February 12th, 1918, that the Turkish Chamber of Deputies had adopted the Bill for minting, and putting into circulation, silver currency to the value of three million pounds Turkish.

The Turkish Chamber of Deputies, on April 1st, 1918, discussed the floating of an Internal Loan, at 5% interest. Janid Bey, the Minister of Finance, declared that the amount of the loan would be unlimited and paid off within a period not exceeding 40 years; the Bonds would be issued at par with a suitable commission to the financial establishments. In order to encourage the participation of the people in this national loan, it had been decided not to deduct taxes now, and in the future, from the income of such capital. The interest will be paid in gold.

SANITARY.

An Agent reports that he learnt from an Army Doctor in Beirut that there is an epidemic of dysentery amongst troops in the Lebanon. There were not less than 500 cases, with 8 to 10 deaths daily.

An Agent reports that on February 28th there were 47 cases of typhus, including 9 Officers, in Rayak Hospital (30 miles N. W. of Damascus), in addition to those at Zahlé (7 miles W. of Rayak) and Baalbek (12 miles N. E. of Rayak). While this Agent was at Zahlé there were over 30 deaths daily at the Hospitals. The dead were buried 20 to a grave and insufficiently covered with earth, so that the dogs prey upon the corpses, dragging fragments of them all over the plain. Army and civilian Doctors came to Rayak to investigate the state of affairs, and went on to Baalbek and Homs.

A prisoner of war, a former inhabitant of Salt, states that there has been much sickness among the troops in that town, and that a British prisoner who had been wounded died of typhus. He was employed in the hospital as an assistant to the doctor after recovering from his wound.

ATTACHMENT.

A note on Enver Pasha.

G.S.P.I.,

G.H.Q.,

E.E.F.

ATTACHMENT TO POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY,

No. 3, 14th April, 1918.

Enver Pasha.

The Turkish War Minister and "Vice-Generalissimo" is a Turk, belonging to a lower middle-class family of Constantinople, probably with a strain of Albanian blood. His father, who was a Clerk of Works in the Palace of the late Sultan Abdul Hamid, had no difficulty in getting his son admitted to the Military School at Pancaldi, thus securing for him a free education and the chance of making a Military career, of which it must be admitted he has taken full advantage. After completing the full course of the Military School with some distinction, he was admitted as a 2nd-Lieutenant to the Staff College at Constantinople, where he qualified as a Staff Officer and was attached to the III. Army Corps in Macedonia about the year 1905. There he was employed in the pursuit of Bulgarian Insurgent bands, and is said to have shown considerable energy and ruthlessness in those operations.

It was during this period that, in common with many of the younger Turkish Officers in Macedonia, he became affiliated to the Committee of Union and Progress, the leading members of which—Talaat, Jemal, Rahmi, Dr. Nazim and Midhat Shukri—were already actively engaged from their Headquarters at Salonica in converting Army Officers to their views. These in the first place, aimed at the deposition of Sultan Abdul Hamid and the restoration of the Turkish Constitution of 1876, but had the ulterior object, as we now know, of favouring the Turks at the expense of all the other elements in the Ottoman Empire. In the early summer of 1908, after the meeting of King Edward VIIth and the Tzar at Reval, and in anticipation of further European intervention in favour of the oppressed inhabitants of Macedonia, the Committee of Union and Progress decided that the moment had come to strike, and Enver was one of the two Officers selected to head local revolts against the Sultan's authority. The other Officer thus selected was Niazi Bey, a native of Resna, near Monastir, and the rising which he headed had an immediate and startling success, owing in part to his local influence in the Resna district, but chiefly to the unanimous refusal of the troops at Monastir to move against the rebels. Enver's rising was less successful, but he managed to keep the field in the mountainous region North-East of Monastir until, after the assassination by an officer of Shemsi Pasha commanding the troops at Monastir, Niazi made a night march on Monastir with his band and captured Osman Pasha, the new Commanding Officer, with all his Staff, without resistance. On this, the Sultan, under advice from his Ministers, gave way, and consented to restore the Constitution of 1876. This concession was received with great enthusiasm, a plenary amnesty was proclaimed, under which many thousands of political prisoners were released and countless exiles returned from foreign countries and distant provinces of the Empire; and Enver and Niazi were hailed as the heroes of the revolution and the champions of the principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, which were to be enjoyed by all Ottoman subjects, without distinction of race or religion.

Shortly after the revolution Enver was sent to Berlin as Turkish Military Attaché. The Germans, who had always flattered and supported Sultan Abdul Hamid, as long as he was all-powerful, now veered round to the Young Turks as the coming power in Turkey, and Berlin society gave Enver a reception which was calculated to turn the head of a young man, whose conceit was as boundless as his ambition. Laudatory articles in the Press compared him to Achilles, to the Young Siegfried and to the Young Napoleon and he was not backward in accepting these ridiculous eulogies at their face value and regarding himself as a "Man of Destiny," who had only to follow his Star in order to reach the summit of human ambitions. From this point in his career he has never looked backward, but has plunged into every adventure which has offered, and it must be confessed that, although he has done nothing to deserve the reputation of a great soldier, he has been singularly successful in pushing himself to the front by a mixture of audacity, self-advertisement and lack of scruple.

In the spring of 1909, on the outbreak of a reactionary movement at Constantinople against the Committee of Union and Progress, he hastened back from Berlin to join the Army of Salonica, which, under the command of Mahmud Shevket Pasha, captured Constantinople and deposed Sultan Abdul Hamid. Returning to Berlin, he continued to enjoy the adulation of his German admirers until 1911, when war between Turkey and Italy gave him a fresh opportunity. He made his way *via* Egypt to Benghazi and took a leading part in the defence of Cyrenaica against the Italians. In this he was associated with Aziz Bey el Masri, an Officer of mixed Arab and Circassian origin, who aroused Enver's jealousy by various dashing exploits and by the ascendancy which he obtained over the Tripoli Arabs. Enver continued his operations in Benghazi long after the conclusion of peace between Italy and Turkey, and was still in Africa during the earlier period of the first Balkan War, but returned to Turkey during the Armistice and Peace Conference which met in London in December, 1912.

In July, 1912, the Young Turk Government had been driven from power in consequence of their mis-management of Macedonian and Albanian affairs, resulting in a serious revolt of the Albanians, and strained relations with the Balkan States. They were replaced by a government of elder statesmen, including Ghazi Mukhtar and Kamil Pashas, the strong man in which was the Minister of War, Nazim Pasha, a fearless and resolute old Circassian Officer, much feared by the Salonica Committee Gang. This Government had to bear all the unpopularity of the disastrous Balkan War, into which they had been driven by the faults of their predecessors, and on the 23rd of January, 1913, Enver and his fellow

conspirators judged that the time had come to overthrow them by force and set up another Union and Progress Cabinet. A band of armed desperadoes, headed by Enver, Talaat and Jemal, broke into the Sublime Porte during a sitting of the Council of Ministers, shot Nazim Pasha, arrested the other Members of the Cabinet, and formed a Government of their own nominees, under the Presidency of Mahmud Shevket Pasha, the General who had commanded the Salonica Army at the capture of Constantinople, in April, 1909, and whose presence gave a certain respectability to the proceedings as he bore a high character for honesty and patriotism. The ostensible object of this "Coup d'Etat" was to prevent the Turkish Government from agreeing to the cession of Adrianople, the siege of which, by the Bulgarian and Serbian forces, continued during the peace negotiations in London.

On this, the Balkan States broke off relations with the Turkish Delegates, and hostilities were resumed. Enver then went as Chief of Staff to an Expeditionary Force, under the command of Fakhri Pasha, which, landing at Sharkeui, on the North-East Coast of the Sea of Marmara, was to unite with the Gallipoli Army and advance to the relief of Adrianople. Both forces were defeated by the Bulgarians with heavy loss, and on the 28th March Adrianople was taken by storm by the Bulgarians.

On May 30th, 1913, Turkey signed, in London, a Treaty of Peace ceding to the Balkan Allies Adrianople and all the territory west of a line drawn from Enos, on the Aegean Sea, to Midia, on the Black Sea. But, at the end of June, the Balkan Allies quarrelled among themselves, and Bulgaria was defeated by the united forces of Serbia, Greece, Roumania, and Montenegro. The Turks, in spite of the assurances which they had given to the European Powers that they would not violate the Treaty of London, at once sent an expedition, which re-took Adrianople without resistance from the weak Bulgarian Garrison. Although Enver was not in command of this force, the Turkish troops which first reached Adrianople were ordered not to enter the town but to await the arrival of Enver, who made a characteristically theatrical entry by the main gate, wearing a Napoleonic headdress, now known as the Enver cap, and escorted by a Camel Corps improvised for the occasion. He has not failed to take all the credit to himself for the recovery of this important fortress, and for obliging Bulgaria, the victor in the first Balkan war, to send delegates to Constantinople to conclude a separate peace with Turkey.

Very shortly after the recapture of Adrianople, the Grand Vizier, Mahmud Shevket Pasha, was assassinated under somewhat mysterious circumstances. The theory has been put forward, not without some serious grounds, that the crime was instigated, or at least connived at by the leaders of the Committee of Union and Progress, who found Mahmud Shevket's honesty of purpose and great prestige with the Army an obstacle to the realization of their unscrupulous policies and sordid personal ambitions. Be this as it may, they took advantage of his death for the removal of all their most dangerous rivals and opponents by executions, imprisonments, and banishments. A man of straw was found to fill the place of Grand Vizier, in the person of the Egyptian Prince, Said Halim Pasha. The other Cabinet posts were filled with active members of the Committee. The Minister of War, Izzet Pasha, an officer of some reputation, was encouraged to come forward as a candidate for the throne of Albania, and so make way for Enver, who was promoted to General's rank and appointed Seraskier (Minister of War) about the end of 1913.

One of his first acts on taking office was one of vengeance on his former rival in Tripoli, Aziz Bey El Masri. This officer was lured to Constantinople on some pretext, and an accusation sprung upon him of disobedience to orders and shedding the blood of fellow Moslems. The latter charge was based on his having been obliged to shoot certain Arab irregulars for misconduct during the Tripoli campaign. He was brought to trial before a packed Court-Martial and condemned to death, but his life was saved by the intervention of the British Press and Diplomacy, and he was ultimately released and allowed to return to Egypt.

Enver next proceeded to get rid of all the senior officers of the Army whom he regarded as inefficient or hostile to the Committee of Union and Progress. In a single Gazette, the retirement of 280 Field-M Marshals, Generals and Colonels was announced, and their places were at once filled by his own nominees. It can easily be imagined how powerful a hold on the Army this measure gave to the Committee leaders, who for the last four years have never allowed any of the Opposition Party to hold an important command of troops or Staff appointment.

In January, 1914, the Entente diplomatic circles in Constantinople were startled by the announcement that the German General, Liman von Sanders had been appointed to the effective command of troops in Constantinople and district, including Adrianople and the Dardanelles. This was the first occasion on which executive command of Turkish troops had been given to a foreign officer, and although on the protest of Russia, the appointment was cancelled, and Linman von Sanders and his staff were nominally relegated to instructional duties, little doubt exists that a secret understanding existed from that moment under which the Turkish Army had become an integral part of the Germanic Military system, and that Enver is mainly responsible for this understanding, with all its disastrous consequences.

About this time, Enver also took a lively interest in the Neo-Turanian movement, and gave a great impetus to the Turkish Boy Scout organization, which was being run on Neo-Turanian lines, by assuming the position of Chief Scout with the outlandish Tartar title of Bash Bogh or Chief Commander. He also devised a newfangled method of writing and printing the Turkish language with separate unlinked letters, and insisted for a time on the Army List and other military publications being so printed. But he soon tired of this new fad, after it had caused much confusion and annoyance, and Turkish is again written and printed as before the Enverian reform.

A marriage was now arranged between Enver and a niece of the Sultan, the daughter of Prince Suleiman, commonly known as "The Milkman" on account of his bucolic appearance and the interest he takes in his dairy farm near Constantinople. This marriage was celebrated with great ostentation, and has given rise to the popular supposition that, encouraged by the Germans, Enver aspires to set the seal on his career by ascending the throne of Turkey.

On the outbreak of the Great War, Enver did not disguise his German sympathies, and constantly pressed for the participation of Turkey in the war. He endeavoured to obtain the consent of his colleagues to this course, but, if that was not obtainable, he was determined to go forward without them. He was, undoubtedly, privy to the attack on Odessa, made by the German Admiral Suchon, in command of the Turkish Fleet, of which the Grand Vizier and most of the Ministers were probably ignorant.

As War Minister and Vice-Generalissimo (the Sultan is nominally Generalissimo), Enver has exercised a preponderating influence on the Turkish conduct of the war. But his only venture as a Commander-in-Chief in the field was in the first Caucasus Campaign, when he put himself at the head of the Army which invaded Russian territory and sustained the crushing defeats of Sari Kamish and Ardahan at the beginning of January 1915. Two entire Army Corps were wiped out, and Enver, following the example of his Corsican prototype, in the retreat from Moscow, left the remnants of his Army to perish miserably in the snow, and returned hastily to Constantinople. Since that date he has contented himself with frequent flying visits to the different fronts, taking credit for everything that can be construed into a success, and leaving the odium of defeat to the Army Generals.

In conjunction with his principal colleagues, Talaat and Jemal, he has applied himself ruthlessly to the destruction of every possible element of opposition, and must be held responsible, in the first degree, for the barbarous massacre of Armenians in 1915, in which nearly a million souls perished, for the summary execution of hundreds of Arab Notables, for the deportation of hundreds of thousands of Greeks, and for the assassination of the Turkish Heir Apparent, and of Marshal Abdullah Pasha, Turkish Commander-in-Chief during the Balkan War. He is also greatly blamed for the complete military subserviency of Turkey to Germany, although, in the opinion of his own party, this is largely compensated by the increased efficiency due to German organization and leadership.

Enver is now about 36 years of age. He is a man of middle height and slight figure, with dark hair, eyes and complexion, and a moustache fiercely turned up at the ends in imitation of the Kaiser. His features are regular and he is distinctly good looking in the "barber's block" fashion. In manner he is quiet and undemonstrative, speaking little and keeping his own counsel, and he does not appear to have any intimate friends or human affections and sympathies. Though not at all deficient in personal courage, he stands in constant fear of assassination, against which he takes every possible precaution, surrounding himself with armed bravoos, concealing his intended movements and dashing through the streets of Constantinople in his motor-car at lightning speed, in order to minimise the danger of attacks on his person. To sum up, he may be described as a characteristic type of the military adventurer, vain, ambitious, resolute and unscrupulous, with an exaggerated opinion of his own mediocre abilities and an intense belief in his star, which has so far been largely justified by his meteoric career.

G.S.P.I.,

G.H.Q.,

E.E.F.

SECRET.



No. 4.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

ENEMY TERRITORY.

26th April, 1918.

POLITICAL.

A Vienna telegram, dated March 14th, says that negotiations were recently concluded between representatives of the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Governments with a view to superseding the Capitulations by new Treaties. Five Conventions were signed on March 12th, dealing with the questions of Consulates, legal protection, legal assistance, extradition and settlement.

A Constantinople telegram, dated March 31st, says that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has announced to the Chamber of Deputies the conclusion of Treaties with Austria-Hungary, identical with those concluded with Germany, with a few differences regarding the Consular agreement. These Treaties will strengthen the Alliance between Turkey and Austria-Hungary, and promote economic and commercial relations between the two countries. The Chamber passed the Bill authorising the Government to ratify the Treaties.

A Constantinople telegram, dated March 16th, announces that, on the urgent proposal of the Minister of Marine, Jemal Pasha, the Chamber of Deputies voted an extraordinary Naval Credit of one million pounds.

It is reported that a Persian Mission, under German auspices, is on the point of leaving Constantinople for Northern Persia, if it has not already left. Amongst the Persians who have been to Berlin and received instructions from the Germans through the Persian Minister are Sama Dowleh, Mirza Jevad, Essad, Ali Ekber Khan and Feizullah. Besides these five young men, some Persians who were studying at the Military College at Constantinople, and who showed special ability and passed their examinations satisfactorily, have been attached to the above Mission. Great efforts are being made to win all the Mussulman elements in Northern Persia, the Caucasus and Turkestan over to the Turkish cause, and much confidence is felt in the success of these efforts.

Dr. Nazim and some of his supporters in the Committee of Union and Progress are urging the Government not to attach much importance to the Arab question, but to concentrate on expansion in the Caucasus and Turkestan, with the hope of ultimately including Northern Persia. They urge that, to be successful in this, an arrangement should be made with the British on the basis of the agreement made in London with Hakki Pasha. This agreement must, of course, be extended and enlarged.

NOTE.—The latter part of this report is hardly consistent with recent information that feeling in Turkey is hardening against Great Britain, and that Dr. Nazim was surrounded by Indian and Arab Agents from the Aden district, who were going to India on Anti-British Missions.

The Germano-Turkish Economic Central Office announced on the 20th March that, in the Turkish Frontier regions which are being evacuated by the Russians, transit communications between the Central Powers and Persia will be resumed in the near future. The former Customs Authorities have already been re-established and further extended.

Petrograd newspapers stated, on the 21st March, that negotiations between the Caucasian Diet and the Ottoman High Command regarding a separate peace have been broken off, as the Turkish demands were not acceptable.

TURCO-GERMAN RELATIONS.

Two Christian notables of Kerak who recently passed through Damascus on their way back from exile in Asia Minor, report that there was much mutual recrimination between Turks and Germans in Damascus. A strong Anti-German sentiment has been created by frequent insults offered to Moslem women of Damascus by German soldiers.

A Turkish Warrant Officer Prisoner of War, captured 8-12-17, states that Turkish hatred of the Germans is continually on the increase, and Turkish senior officers understand that they are fighting entirely in German interests. The supply of men in Turkey is exhausted, and they can only count in future upon German troops.

An intelligent and well-educated Armenian, who deserted 23-12-17, states that a strong belief exists amongst Turkish soldiers that the British kill their prisoners. On the other hand, the pictures dropped by our aeroplanes representing abundant food and comforts in Prisoners' Camps in Egypt appeal very strongly to their feelings.

They hate the Germans from the bottom of their hearts, saying "these German unbelievers enjoy a better life than we do. They eat our best food while we starve," and they curse those who brought the Germans into the country.

An Armenian refugee from Salt, who left Damascus on 20-3-18, states that the rumour was current in that city that the Turkish Sultan had informed the Kaiser that, unless German troops were sent to Palestine to assist the Turks, Turkey would allow the British to occupy all Asia Minor.

A refugee, now in Jerusalem, heard the following remarks made by German Officers in Salt:—

"I hate the Turks, they steal our gear and are perfectly useless."

"We are fighting for the Capitalists, and are sick of it."

"If I could only kill the German Emperor, etc." (this by a German-American).

"We might get a few more German troops down to this front, but could never transport supplies for them with our inadequate communications."

"The British never take advantage of their gains. We expected to be surrounded at Jerusalem, at Jericho and at Shemet Nimrin."

"The Kaiser's visit to Constantinople is supposed to be in connection with arranging a 99 years' lease of Syria and Palestine, for a price of three milliards of marks."

A German Prisoner of War, captured 9-4-18, stated that the relations between educated Turks and Germans were good, but those between uneducated Turks and Germans were unfriendly. The Turkish religious orders also were very anti-German. One of the chief reasons for which lower class Turks were anti-German was, that German soldiers persistently went about with Turkish women. Feeling ran so high that German soldiers were forbidden to go into Turkish quarters singly; this was especially the case in the Scutari quarter of Constantinople. All the Turks were out to make as much money as they could out of the Germans.

Informant told the following stories:—

(1.) "A Turkish Major, after the great fire at Haidar Pasha Railway Station, Constantinople, sent out some of his men to loot. They brought back a motor car destined for Falkenhayn. The Major sold this car five times over, sending out his men each time to recapture it from those to whom he had sold it."

(2.) "Informant was sent from Afule to Semakh, and given money to buy his rations. He went to a Turkish Supply Officer and asked for a kilo of sugar. The Officer told him he would give him one kilo on condition that he gave a receipt for five kilos."

(3.) "In Constantinople, about the beginning of February, Falkenhayn issued a strict order that German soldiers were not to sell their rifles. This order was due to the fact that Turkish civilians were offering £T. 17 in gold for German rifles, and informant heard that they were sending these rifles to the Arabs."

The Arabs hate the Turks and do not care who rules over them, as long as it is not the Turks.

A German Officer, Prisoner of War, states that the feeling against the Germans is acute and that German Officers on this front are not allowed to move about alone, several having recently disappeared.

It is reported from Constantinople that there is increasing discontent there in consequence of German exploitation. A form of paper monopoly is enjoyed by the German Ambassador to whom all paper for the use of the Press is addressed, and who limits the amounts issued to each newspaper according to the Germanophil tendency of the Editor.

A Jewish refugee who left Damascus 27-1-18, states that a German Ottoman Club had been in existence there for some time for Officers and civilians, but the Germans and Turks hated each other. An Austro-Ottoman Club was opened on July 21st, and the feeling between Austrian and Turkish Officers and Officials was more friendly.

A German Prisoner of War, captured 9-4-18, states that when he first came to Constantinople on 3-10-17, his Battalion was camped at Feneraki on the Asiatic side, and men were only allowed into town on duty. Constantinople people were then rather friendly towards the German soldiers, but three months later relations became rather cool. This was because traders, mostly Jews, used to pester German Motor-lorry drivers to sell the supplies in their lorries. He heard of 12,000 Marks being paid for the contents of a lorry. When these people claimed the goods, they could not get them, for the German drivers had only gone into the transaction to rid themselves of these pests, and had handed over the money to their Commanding Officer with a report. Thus the traders lost their money and got into trouble as well, and this gave rise to much ill-feeling.

From the beginning the Germans disliked the Turkish soldiers, who are always selling their kit and stealing from their comrades, while the Turks dislike the Germans, of whom they are jealous on account of their better pay and treatment. German Officers recommend their men to treat the Turks well and to be on good terms with them, but this cannot be done. In March 1918, Liman von Sanders, having received many complaints of ill-treatment of Turks by Germans, issued orders threatening that any German ill-treating Turks would be sent to the western front. On this, all the men in informant's Company told their Company Commander that they would be glad to go to the western front.

Another German Prisoner of War states, that the Arabs in Damascus dislike both Turks and Germans, and think that the Germans have come to stay in Turkey and Syria. Last February, placards were posted in the streets of Damascus calling upon Arabs to drive the Germans out at once, as they were still few in number. More would come later on, and then it would become impossible. For several days no Germans were allowed in the streets after 7 p.m., and during the day they were only allowed to go about the street armed. After four days, matters became normal again.

ARAB MOVEMENT.

It was reported that the Kerak Bedouins joined the Sherif on March 21st, after the evacuation of the town by the Turks. The reason for this is said to be, not so much any sympathy they may feel for the Sherif, as a healthy fear of the treatment they might have received at British hands—the latter probably due to statements made by the Turks during their occupation.

A Greek, who deserted the Sherif's forces, April 8th, 1918, says that the population of Kerak is 50% Orthodox Christian, 12% Catholic, and 38% Moslem. The Christians are all anxious for British occupation, but the Moslems are divided, one faction under Sheikh Erfan being pro-Turk, and the rest of the Mujalli tribe being pro-Sherif. When the Turks left, 300 Mujalli horsemen joined the Sherif's forces. There are also about 2,000 Armenian refugees in Kerak, who all intend to move into Palestine as soon as possible.

Deserters and prisoners taken by the Sherif's forces, April 10th, 1918, report that the population of Kerak were again providing the Turkish forces with supplies *via* El Kutrani, and had ejected the Sherif's representative.

Two Christian notables of Kerak, who were returning from exile, and came into Jerusalem with the Salt refugees, report as follows:—

On the evening of March 29th, 1918, they arrived by train at Kalaat Ez Zerka station (156. T. 28), where they spent the night in a camp of the Beni Hassan tribe. In their presence, the Sheikhs of this tribe held a meeting at which it was decided that, as soon as Amman fell, they would attack the retreating Turks and follow them up as far as Deraa, and there plunder the store houses. There the Druses and Hauran Arabs were expected to join in the attack.

These Sheikhs wished to express their loyalty and that of their followers at Kerak to the British. They were willing, with their men and resources, to fight alongside the British troops in any way desired. They further agreed to serve freely in the matter of collecting all the grain the British may require from their district.

An Arab Medical Officer, captured March 10th, 1918, and described as intelligent and trustworthy, states that the action of the King of the Hejaz has caused a split in Moslem circles in Syria, and whereas before all Moslems were united, now the feeling towards the Allies has become more a matter of nationality. Turkish Moslems are of course hostile, but Arabs are, practically without exception, friendly to the Allied cause and hostile to Germany.

A few months ago a Druse Sheikh, in Damascus, told informant that the Druses were only waiting for the time when they could look for support from the King of the Hejaz or the British forces to rise and give vent to their long-standing hatred of the Turks. The Druses hate the Germans because they are allies to their hereditary enemies.

Turks and Arabs have now become enemies at heart whatever outward appearances may be. There are very few Arabs fighting in the Turkish Army who are not looking for an opportunity to desert to the Allies or the Sherif's Army, and there is now no talk of the unity of all Islamic peoples, for this has been entirely superseded by race feeling.

Arab Moslems and Syrian Christians of all denominations have become united in friendship for the Allies, under the yoke of oppression to which they have been subjected. There is none of the old bitter religious feeling left, for the Arabs have great faith in the Sherif and say that he would not have risen except in the interests of justice and right.

The Druses are friendly disposed towards Christians and Arab Moslems. They keep their religion to themselves, and any feeling is of a racial rather than of a religious nature.

The Arabs, in Syria, are so enthusiastically in favour of the movement of the King of the Hejaz that, were it possible without imminent danger of massacre, they would be openly hostile to the Turks and Germans. The Christians too are in favour of this movement, as a means to bring about their speedier liberation from a yoke which is becoming more and more oppressive.

An Arab has been brought into Jerusalem, wounded in three places, who tells the following story:—

He was going to Amman when, on his way, he met an Arab who advised him not to enter the town as the Turks were shooting all the Arabs. He then made his way to Wadi Naaur (142. A. 28) where he met eight Turks who stopped him and said that the Arabs were all traitors. One of the Turks shot him in the face, one bayoneted him in the thigh, while another bayoneted him in the leg. He heard that the Turks were now shooting all Arabs proceeding to or entering Amman, as they consider the Arabs as traitors, and the cause of their defeat in the Amman raid and the destruction of the railway.

A Turkish Imam (Chaplain), captured March 31st, 1918, states that, in Beirut, all races and religions are friendly to the Allies, especially to the French. The whole population of Beirut, Aleppo, and Damascus are Anti-Turk and Anti-German, but the different races and religions get on well together, and all are in favour of the King of Hejaz, with very few exceptions.

The population of Syria, in general, is hostile to the Committee of Union and Progress. In the southern districts they do not even know of the existence of that Society.

Informant is of opinion that the King of the Hejaz is justified in his movement, and is certain of success. The Turks are greatly hampered by difficulties with supply, and will find that they have been deceived by the Germans. All this trouble has been brought on the country by the Committee of Union and Progress.

It is reported that the political effect of our recent raid East of Jordan is in our favour for the following reason: Many of the tribes or followers of the various Chiefs took part, either in fighting the Turks and Circassians, or in looting their property. The Turks are quite aware of this, and if they have not taken severe measures against certain tribes for the moment, it is due to military reasons. This will not deceive the Arabs into believing that this will always be the Turkish attitude. They are well aware that, should the Turks get the upper hand, they will have to suffer for assisting us on the East of Jordan, and, in consequence, no doubt whatever is felt that, should the occasion again arise, they will take a little more active and whole-hearted part in co-operating with us than they did on the last occasion.

An Arab N.C.O., from Haifa, captured April 10th, 1918, states that, at Haifa, all classes hate the Turks and are eagerly awaiting the British. They also hate the Germans as being the cause of the war. The King of the Hejaz is popular as the upholder of Arab rights against the Turks. Informant had heard from Turkish Officers that the Turkish Sheikh-ul Islam had been sent to Hejaz to negotiate for peace with the King.

Agents report that no great severity was shown to the inhabitants of Salt when the Turks re-occupied the town, the morning after our retirement. The houses of all who left with the British, a list of whom was made, were looted, and their provisions commandeered by the Military Authorities. German troops killed eight or ten men in Salt. One Felah El Hamet, who had rejoiced publicly on our arrival, was condemned to death. The scaffold was prepared, and the rope round his neck, when, at the last moment, he was pardoned. This was said to be done by Jemal Pasha No. 2, for the sake of effect. Twenty-seven of Mohammed Hussein's men who fought for us were imprisoned, and afterwards pardoned.

ECONOMIC.

Refugees from Madeba and Kerak report that there has been much cultivation of cereals in those districts and that the crops promise well, both for quality and quantity.

A Greek deserter to the Sherif's forces on April 8th, 1918, stated that the crops in Madeba promised very well, owing to abundant rains, and that only wheat, oats and durah had been sown.

Native reports of April 17th, 1918, were to the effect that the Turks were still conveying wheat from Madeba to Salt by means of camels on that date.

The following dates for harvesting east of Jordan have been given:—

JORDAN VALLEY.

Barley	harvest	will begin	about	May 1st
Wheat	"	"	"	middle of May.
Durah	"	"	"	in September.

KERAK, MADEBA, SALT & HAURAN.

Lentils	harvest	will begin	at	beginning of June.
Barley	"	"	"	middle of June.
Wheat	"	"	"	end of June.

By the end of July, all winter crops will probably be ready to be reaped. Grapes ripen towards the middle of July, and are over by the end of October.

Refugees from enemy territory report that the land around Hudeira and Zimmarin (088 R. 24 b.) and also in the Tul Keram district has all been sown and crops are very promising. So also the highlands of Samaria; an exceptional harvest is expected on account of the abundant winter rains. The sowing was a little delayed because of the heavy rains, and consequently the harvest will be late too, *e.g.*, another two to three weeks for barley, and four to five weeks for wheat. For the last four weeks, the pinch of hunger has been felt in the Turkish Army. The stores of wheat, durah and barley have run out. The horses are feeding on grass only, and Turkish officers have been heard saying that in the event of an offensive, their cavalry and artillery horses will not be able to hold out for more than two days. The question of cereals during the next few weeks will try the Turks severely. Turkish horses are stated to be in many cases fed on raisins, owing to the lack of barley and durah.

Last year, the Turkish Government took about 40% of the crops; this year they will undoubtedly take the whole crop. Turkish and German officers have often stated that, if they have to retire at a time when the standing crops are ripe, they will set fire to them.

Letters from enemy territory describe the condition of Selfit (098. T. 30.c.) as most deplorable—"The houses destroyed, the plantations ruined and the olive groves nearly bare. This is the cruelty of the Turks."

An Arab deserter, who left enemy territory about April 4th, reports that around Irbid (15 miles W. S.W. of Deraa) there is extensive cultivation, but very little in Nablus. In Bidieh (098. S. 7.b.) much wheat, barley and lentils sown.

The following information has been obtained at Ramallah, concerning the Nablus district.

The inhabitants of Nablus have cultivated most of their land, but the prospect is not good. Turkish Army animals are grazing in the fields, and the people of Jebel Nablus have been reduced to poverty by the Government, most of their grain having been confiscated. The price of wheat was 45 P.T. per rotol (5½ lb) and that of maize 40 P.T. per rotol.

An educated Jewish refugee who entered our lines recently gives the following account of economic conditions at Damascus up to January 27th, 1918, and subsequently at Haifa.

At Damascus, foodstuffs were more costly than before the war, but not exceptionally dear under the circumstances. Vegetables and fruit were abundant. Trade goods arrived only in very limited quantities, but the parcel post comes in regularly. When informant first reached Damascus about the middle of December, the value of the 1 £T. note was 16 P.T., but by the end of January it was 20 P.T.

At Haifa, the population was about half of what it had been before the war, the Germans of the Colony having entered military service, as well as many Moslems. There still remained about 1,000 Germans, chiefly women and children, and many houses were to let in the German Colony at low rentals.

The German policy of buying land changed about the end of December, probably owing to fear of the British advance and occupation, and the Germans were selling land, mostly to Jews and Babis, at fairly low prices, the sales being legalized at the German Consulate. Turkish paper money was accepted in payment at the rate of 25 P.T. for the 1 £T. note, the rise in value being due to the land sales.

Living was cheap, food-stuffs being abundant. Only a small part of the plain of Jezreel (Ezdraelon) is cultivated, and a poor harvest of winter crops is expected. But the summer crops are expected to be better, as the cultivators hope that the British will have occupied that district before the autumn harvest.

There is little or no coal, and charcoal is very expensive, costing about 5 P.T. per rotol (5½ lb). Petroleum also is scarce and expensive, costing 13½ £T. paper for an 8 gallon tin. Civilian clothing is of bad quality, and very expensive, a suit costing 30 £T paper, equal to about 6 £T. gold.

A German prisoner of war, captured April 4th, 1918, gives the following information concerning economic conditions in Constantinople where he was in February.

The Germans are trying to capture the trade in Constantinople in clothing, boots, etc., which has hitherto been in French hands. So far they have not succeeded, as the shop stocks of French goods have not yet been exhausted.

Turkey is sending olive oil, soap and raisins to Germany, but no cereals. Germany is sending to Turkey cereals, coal, wood-cutting implements, ploughs and machinery for textile and iron industries.

The following prices were current at Constantinople in February, before and after the signature of peace with Russia:—

	Before peace was signed.	After peace was signed.
Coal, per ton	900 Marks.	600 Marks.
Sugar, per lb.	18 "	7 "
Bread, " "	3 "	3 "
Meat, per oke (2¾ lb.) ...	24 "	24 "
Eggs, each	1'60 "	'6 to '8 "
Raisins, per kilo (2 1/5 lb.).	10 "	10 "
Fish, per oke	12 "	12 "

Coffee and tea were unobtainable, rice and wood very dear.

A Turkish Officer Prisoner of War, captured 9-4-18, who left Constantinople 3-3-18, states that the whole population of Constantinople is now rationed on the ticket system. Tickets are also issued for the purchase of cotton cloth. The tickets are marked with the Government tariff prices. Food and other commodities in excess of the ration must be paid for at prices very much higher than the Government Tariff, and the Government has closed several shops which were charging excessive prices.

Balkan newspapers of 18-2-18 report a fall in food prices at Constantinople since the beginning of peace negotiations with Russia, and the export of large quantities of Turkish tobacco to Germany and Austria, owing to the approaching release of large stocks stored at Samsun. Tobacco prices had fallen from 160/190 P.T. per oke (2¾ lb.) to 90/180 P.T. per oke, and would probably continue to fall.

An informant who left Constantinople early in March gives the following food prices in Constantinople at that time:—

Milk, per oke	60 P.T.	Coarse fish (e.g., Mackerel, etc.)	90 P.T.
Butter, per oke	300 "	Olive oil	220 "
Cabbages, per oke	18 "	Figs, per oke	80 "
Spinach, " "	22 "		
Sugar, " "	160 "		

Bread only was in sufficient quantities, and petroleum, owing to recent arrivals from Roumania, had fallen in price very considerably.

Black Sea navigation was increasing daily, and it was expected that the economic situation in Constantinople would be greatly relieved. No wheat supplies had arrived from Odessa, and none were expected for two or three months.

The Jewish Deputy Carasso, who, before the war was almost penniless, is now one of the wealthiest men in Turkey, owing to war profiteering and speculation. He is said to have deposited £500,000 in Vienna Banks.

A German Prisoner of War states that Germany is importing munitions, ordnance stores and equipments, coal and coke into Turkey. Turkey is exporting a good deal of cotton from the Adana Vilayet to Germany. All the manufactured goods on sale at Constantinople seemed to be French.

FINANCIAL.

The Turkish Telegraph Agency "Agence Nationale Ottomane" states that the Turkish Minister of Finance has announced that subscriptions to the Internal Loan, the interest of which will be paid in gold, will commence on the 1st. of May. The loan project was warmly welcomed in Constantinople, and financial circles are of opinion that Constantinople alone will subscribe millions of pounds. The newspapers are unanimous in saying that there is no financial enterprise as advantageous as the Internal Loan, and if the nation hesitates over this matter, it will lose its prestige in the eyes of friends and enemies equally.

[NOTE.—It is not stated whether the advantages will be to the lender or to the borrower.]

Recently arrived Jewish refugees at Jaffa report that many of the Medjidiés now current in Turkey are minted in Germany. A thin coating only of these coins is silver, but they circulate at their full face value of 20 P.T.

Among captured enemy documents is a Turkish Army Order, undated, issued in accordance with instructions from the Minister of War, forbidding all trading in gold, ordering that all gold coin be brought to Government Offices for exchange for notes, forbidding the conveyance of gold from one place to another, and threatening all who infringe this order with deportation "to a suitable place."

In the last paragraph of this order it is laid down that, although the Government is obliged to make payments to Bedouins in gold, civilians are forbidden to accept gold from Bedouins who come into the towns to trade, so that the Bedouins may be obliged to exchange their gold for notes and so learn to appreciate paper money.

Constantinople Newspapers of 5-2-18, published the following figures for the Budget Estimates for 1918:—

GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES.

Ordinary Expenditure	...	£T. 51,762,761
Receipts	83,965,698
Deficit	£T. 17,797,068

ESTIMATES AS MODIFIED BY BUDGET COMMISSION.

Ordinary Expenditure	...	£T. 51,402,327
Receipts	87,016,698
Deficit	£T. 14,385,629

The interest on the Turkish Government Debt is now reckoned to be about £35,000,000. Negotiations are said to be taking place between the German and Austrian Governments with a view to Turkey handing over all forests, mines and certain other concessions for roads and railways, the profits to be applied to the payment of interest on the debt.

SANITARY.

A captured enemy document, dated March 27th, 1918, Lines of Communication, IVth Turkish Army, contains copy of an Army Order by Enver Pasha to the effect that, on a recent visit to the Hospital at Kirk Kilisseh (East of Adrianople), he saw some sick men lying on straw without any medical care, and in another hospital tent the corpse of a private soldier long dead, in a state of decomposition, to which nobody seemed to pay any attention. He consequently ordered the Principal Medical Officer, Colonel Ibrahim Hakki Bey, to be reduced to the ranks, and to be employed as an Army Medical Corps private in the same hospital. The Order ends with the words—"It is our most sacred duty to treat with paternal and affectionate solicitude the Ottoman soldiers, who are sacrificing their lives for the sake of their country and religion."

Refugees from Salt state that, before the British temporary occupation, there were some 2,000 to 3,000 sick and wounded in Salt. Owing to the usual lack of food, drugs, and care, the daily average of deaths was 40 to 50. An inspection took place after which the doctors, who were mostly Christians, were charged with neglect, and ordered to take measures to better the conditions. "Measures" were subsequently taken, but the death-rate increased instead of diminishing.

Among captured enemy documents, the following note has been found, written on the visiting card of Hairi Bey Sureya Pasha Zadé, Honorary Surgeon Red Crescent, dated July 3rd, 1917, at Wadi Surar Hospital (Junction Station).

"Esteemed Nureddin Bey."

"I have visited the hospitals. The Christian doctors are exceptionally kind to the British sick. Prisoners who have recovered are not yet sent on to the Officer Commanding District. I have noticed that the Armenian nurses and servants are particularly attentive to British wounded, and devote themselves to serve them. I advise you to remove the Armenians from these duties, in consultation with Hairi Bey."

Signed, IHSAN.

ATTACHMENT.

A note on the Zionist Movement.

G.S.P.I.,

G.H.Q.,

E.E.F.

SECRET and CONFIDENTIAL.

ATTACHMENT TO POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY,

No. 4, 26th April, 1918.

THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT.

The hope of a return to Palestine has sustained every succeeding generation of Jews scattered in every quarter of the Globe. Palestine has always been regarded by the Jews, not merely as the Land of their ancestors and the place where all that goes to make up the Jewish religion, Jewish consciousness, and Jewish national history as its source, but also as the country of their future, where they will once again find a home and a fresh inspiration. The "Diaspora" or the scattering of the Jews has always been regarded by them as "Galuth," i.e., exile, and they have always cherished this hope of a "return." How or when this return is to be accomplished had been matters which, by the very nature of their circumstances, had been left open. Tradition sustained a belief that the return would be effected by Divine guidance in the fullness of time. Zionism—in its various forms—represents the conscious and deliberate attempt of the Jews to effect the return. It is a modern movement dating from the Nineteenth Century. No one can read Lord Beaconsfield's novels "Alroy" and "Tancred" or George Eliot's "Daniel Deronda" without realising that the Zionist idea had germinated in Europe in the last few generations.

There has always existed in Jerusalem, Tiberias and Safed a remnant of Jews—commonly called the "Halukah"—communities of Jews attracted to the Holy Cities by purely religious motives and supported by the alms of their co-religionists in the Diaspora. The object of the Halukah was primarily to engage in religious exercises and cannot be regarded as in any way consciously connected with Zionism.

Europe first became interested in the agricultural employment of Jews in Palestine, on the occasion of the visit of an English Jew, Sir Moses Montefiore, to Palestine in 1839. The word Zionism was then unknown, but from that date begins the new era of Agricultural Colonization in Palestine. The establishment of self-supporting Jewish agriculturists in Palestine, which began as the work of great Jewish philanthropists, such as Sir Moses Montefiore, Baron Hirsch, and last but not least Baron Edmond de Rothschild, has become the aim of Zionism, i.e., the re-building of the Jewish nation from the soil of Palestine. The latter half of the Nineteenth Century may be called, therefore, the period of the foundation of practical Zionism.

Practical Colonization was followed or rather accompanied by the rise of an intellectual or national movement called "Chovevé Zion" (Lovers of Zion).

In 1862 was published a book by Moses Hess, entitled "Rome and Jerusalem;" "The last Nationality Question." This book indicated the belief of the author that the only solution of the Jewish problem in unemancipated countries in Europe lay in re-settlement in Palestine, for it appeared to him that in those countries the Jews would always be regarded as strangers liable to suffer persecution. His conception of the return to Palestine was the return to a home of refuge from oppression. Deeper and more significant has been the part played by another author now resident in England—one Asher Ginzberg—known all over the Jewish world as "Achad Ha'Am" ("One of the people"). To him more than anyone else is due the spiritual, moral, and literary Renaissance of the Jewish people during the last 25 years. He gave expression to the soul of the Zionist movement, and has done much to restore Hebrew as the living vehicle of Jewish expression. He has taught his people anew the moral value of national pride and national aspirations. He feels passionately that the race which has given to the world so much that is noblest in its spiritual and moral life has still a further message to bring to a world steeped in materialism and envy; a message which will come from the mountains, the deserts, and the valleys of Palestine, as in the days of the Prophets of old. His preaching is directed to his own people in Hebrew, and he points out to them that their position in many lands is one of slavery in freedom, slavery to the counting house, or, at best, to the ideals of other nations, and that the choice before them is either complete assimilation or the rebuilding of their national, moral, and intellectual life in the hard school of toil in Palestine. His cries are: "Down with the Worship of the Golden Calf" and "Abandon the Fleshpots of Egypt."

In 1895 appeared the first leader of political Zionism, a man named Herzl, a Vienesese journalist, then domiciled in Paris. He is the founder of the existing Zionist organisation throughout the World. In 1897, he presided over the first Zionist Congress in Basle and his programme is clearly set forth in the main resolution adopted at that Congress, as follows:—

"Zionism strives to create for the Jewish people a home in Palestine secured by public law. The Congress contemplates the following means to the attainment of this end. (1). The promotion of the Colonization of Palestine by Jewish Agricultural and Industrial workers. (2). The organization and binding together of the whole of Jewry by means of appropriate institutions in accordance with the laws of each country. (3). The strengthening and fostering of Jewish national sentiment and consciousness. (4). Steps towards obtaining Government consent to the attainment of the aims of Zionism."

Herzl's message spread like wild fire. Within a few months every country in Europe had its Zionist Societies. In New York alone, fifteen Zionist Societies formed a Federation. Zionist organizations sprang up in South Africa, Australia, Shanghai, Canada, and above all in Russia and England. Zionist Newspapers, financial institutions and activities of every

kind came into existence. The organization was vested in an Executive Committee elected annually by the Congress which in turn is elected by every contributor to the Zionist funds throughout the world. Ten Congresses have been held since 1897, six at Basle, one in London, one at the Hague, one at Hamburg, and one at Vienna.

Herzl was a political leader, and his first approach was made to the late Sultan Abdul Hamid with the request for a "Charter" on the lines of a British Chartered Company. The Sultan fenced with the proposal, using it as a pawn in the game of his world diplomacy. Herzl became impatient and turned to the British Government with a suggestion of an autonomous Jewish Settlement at El Arish. This was soon found to be inadequate and impracticable. Mr. Balfour's Government was then in power and he offered Herzl a large tract of land in East Africa. Herzl was inclined to accept, as also was Mr. Israel Zangwill, then the most prominent English Zionist. However the Palestinian sentiment among his followers was too strong for him and the East African project was turned down at the Seventh Congress at Basle in 1905. The two principal leaders of the "Palestine or nothing" party in England at that time were Ahad Há Am and Dr. Weizmann. The latter was born of poor parents at Pinsk in what he describes as the "blackest Ghetto in Russia." He came to England as an almost penniless student of chemistry, hardly able to speak a word of English, and by his outstanding abilities and character, after a few years became Professor of Chemistry at Manchester University. He opposed Herzl over the East African project and also on political issues as he advocated concentration on "practical" rather than "political" Zionism. His aim is the planting of a free and self-supporting Jewish life in Palestine, leaving political developments to take their own course. His special interest is the education of the rising generation in Palestine, and it was due to his initiative that the last Congress, 1913, passed a resolution, in favour of the creation of a "Hebrew University at Jerusalem open to the whole world." He regards the achievement of this object, as of primary importance, not merely for the creation of a great intellectual and cultural centre in Palestine but as the focus of Jewish learning and national consciousness throughout the globe, and as a possible link between eastern and western thought.

Zionism has developed in a striking manner during the war. The outstanding feature has been the growth of Zionism in America during the last three years, under the leadership of Justice Brandeis the most notable figure of the Supreme Court of the United States, and an intimate personal friend and counsellor of President Wilson. With the world in the melting-pot the Zionists have realized their opportunity. Herzl died in 1904, and the leadership has lately fallen to the heads of the different national Federations, notably to Dr. Weizmann in England, with whom have been associated in London, M. Sokolov, the head of the Warsaw Federation, Justice Brandeis, and Dr. Tschlenov of Moscow, who died in London but a few weeks ago, leaving the leadership of Russian Zionism to M. Ussichkin of Odessa. The Zionists of Russia have been, and are still suffering from the persecution of the Bolsheviks, who are bitterly opposed to them and their objects.

German Zionism has lately been somewhat over-shadowed by the Hilfsverein der Deutschen Juden, to which the majority of the rich assimilated German Jews belong. This body came into sharp conflict with the Zionists in the year before the war, mainly on the subject of the language of education in the Hilfsverein schools in Palestine. The Hilfsverein sought to push German at the expense of Hebrew, and to become an organ of German propaganda. The Zionist members of the Committee, Zionist teachers resigned, and Zionists parents refused to allow their children to attend the Hilfsverein schools.

Politically Zionism has thrown itself whole-heartedly on the side of the Entente Powers, not only because Zionists realize that their aims can never materialize under a corrupt and hostile Turkish Administration, but because the moral conceptions and ideas of Zionism are essentially shared by Great Britain and her Allies, and are in marked contrast to those of the Central Powers.

The Zionists sought from the British War Cabinet and obtained the "Balfour" declaration in favour of "The establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine." This national home is conceived by the Zionist as a place where Jews can lead their own life in their own way, using their own language (Hebrew), building up their own institutions, and developing the country on a basis of equality of treatment with the other inhabitants of Palestine.

[The above is the official political policy of Zionism as expounded by Dr. Weizmann].

Dr. Weizmann and the other Zionist leaders, have declared that it is no part of their policy to seek to establish a Jewish State, or Jewish Administration in Palestine at the end of the war.

The British Government has sent out to Palestine an official Zionist Commission as an earnest of their intention to translate into deed and fact the assurance given to the Jewish World in the declaration. The aim of this Commission is to lay the foundations of those schemes of educational and practical development, which are implied in the Government's declaration; and to assist the Military Administration in dealing with Jewish questions in Palestine. At the same time, the Commission has been instructed to endeavour to establish friendly relations with the Arabs and other non-Jewish Communities in Palestine.

Ever since the publication of the British Government's declaration, the German and Turkish Governments have been endeavouring to counteract the striking effect which that declaration has had throughout Jewry in all countries, so far without any success. Enemy Governments are suggesting that the British Government's declaration is merely "a scrap of paper." Consequently the eyes of the "Diaspora" are watching the present development of the situation in Palestine, with the closest interest. Zionism to-day is essentially pro-British, and owing to its world-wide organization, as a political power of great magnitude, is of significant importance to British diplomacy.

Zionism includes within its ranks, not, it is true, the bulk of the rich Jews, but it does include practically all the best and leading intelligenzia of Jewry—the men of science, the writers and the journalists, and above all, the great mass of the workers. It is broadly true that the Jewish masses to-day are Zionist, whether in England, America, or even Russia. The anti-Zionist Jews in the Diaspora are notably the wealthy German Jews, and a small league, numbering 1,300, of British Jews, who fear that the movement may effect their social and political status in the land of their adoption. This latter has been specially safeguarded in Mr. Balfour's declaration, and not even the most extreme Zionist contemplates the establishment of more than a Jewish nucleus in Palestine. This nucleus will form a centre of Hebrew life and culture which by its interest for and influence over Jewry throughout the world will leave no small political and moral effect. Zionism which started as the project of a few idealists has become a practical aim and political force whose importance is recognized by the Governments of all belligerent countries to-day.

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G.H.Q.,
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