

TURKEY. No. 9 (1880).



045B 163, Kapsel
(1)

DESPATCH

FROM

HER MAJESTY'S AMBASSADOR AT CONSTANTINOPLE

FORWARDING A COPY OF THE

IDENTIC NOTE

ADDRESSED TO

THE PORTE

ON

THE 11TH JUNE, 1880.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1880.*

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04SB 163 (1)

Despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople
forwarding a Copy of the Identic Note addressed to
the Porte on the 11th June, 1880.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 15, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the identic note which was handed to the Porte on Saturday, the 12th instant. I also inclose, for your Lordship's convenience, an English translation, by which it will appear how closely the phraseology of your Lordship's Circular note of the 4th instant, as modified by your Lordship's further instructions, has been followed. The preamble and the conclusion were drafted by M. Tissot, and were unanimously adopted. There was little difference of opinion throughout. I have informed your Lordship, by telegraph, that no difficulties occurred, and I am happy to add that very great cordiality prevails amongst all the Representatives of the Signatory Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure.

Mr. Goschen to Abeddin Pasha.

M. le Ministre,

Therapia, le 11 Juin, 1880.

LES retards apportés à l'exécution de certaines dispositions du Traité de Berlin ont motivé, de la part des Puissances Signataires de cet acte, un échange de vues à la suite duquel elles ont reconnu qu'il était d'un intérêt Européen de mettre un terme à ces retards, et admis que l'union de leurs efforts était pour elles le plus sur moyen d'arriver aux résultats que l'acte international du 13 Juillet, 1878, a eu pour but d'assurer. Pénétré de cette double nécessité, et complètement d'accord avec les Cabinets de Berlin, de Vienne, de Paris, de Rome, et de St. Pétersbourg, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique m'a chargé de faire connaître à votre Excellence le point de vue auquel il envisage les différentes questions soulevées par l'inexécution d'un certain nombre des clauses du Traité de Berlin.

En ce qui concerne la rectification des frontières de la Turquie et de la Grèce, la Porte a reçu il y a quelque temps une proposition faite par le Marquis de Salisbury, et approuvée par les Puissances, d'après laquelle une Commission Internationale devait se rendre dans les provinces frontières pour déterminer cette rectification.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan s'étant borné à signaler les difficultés que pourrait rencontrer dans l'exécution la combinaison à laquelle il était invité à souscrire, sans donner d'ailleurs aucune réponse définitive, les Puissances Méditerranéennes se sont trouvées dans l'obligation de considérer ce silence comme un refus et ont dû par suite aviser aux moyens de donner, à bref délai, à l'affaire de la rectification des frontières Turco-Grecques, la solution qu'on avait inutilement essayé de concerter avec la Sublime Porte, et que réclame l'intérêt de la Turquie aussi bien que celui de la Grèce.

Elles ont décidé, en conséquence, que leurs Représentants près Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne se réuniraient en Conférence à Berlin le 16 de ce mois, pour déterminer, à la majorité des voix, et avec l'assistance d'officiers possédant des connaissances spéciales, la ligne de frontière qu'il convient d'adopter. Il est également convenu entre elles que dès qu'une décision aura été prise par la Conférence une

Commission pourra se transporter sur le terrain pour régler les questions de détail qui se rattachent au tracé général.

Les Puissances constatent, d'un autre côté, que l'état de choses créé par la question de la frontière Monténégro réclame une attention plus grande encore et exige une urgente solution.

Les autorités Ottomanes n'ont pas mis en exécution la Convention récemment intervenue entre la Porte et le Monténégro, et à laquelle des Puissances avaient donné leur adhésion dans le Protocole du 18 Avril, 1880. Elles ont compromis la combinaison de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan en permettant aux Albanais d'accepter certaines positions adjugées au Monténégro. Une collision peut se produire d'un moment à l'autre entre les troupes Monténégrines et les masses Albanaises qui leur font face.

Les Puissances se voient donc dans la nécessité absolue d'inviter le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan à faire connaître dans les termes les plus explicites ses intentions en ce qui concerne la frontière Monténégro et à mettre immédiatement en exécution pratique l'arrangement intervenu entre la Sublime Porte et le Monténégro. Les Puissances font d'avance retomber sur la Sublime Porte la responsabilité des graves conséquences que pourraient entraîner de plus longs retards apportés à la satisfaction des droits acquis à cette Principauté.

L'attention des Puissances a dû se fixer enfin sur un troisième point.

Par l'Article LXI du Traité du 13 Juillet, 1878, la Sublime Porte s'est engagée à exécuter, sans plus de délais, les améliorations et les réformes administratives que réclament les intérêts locaux dans les provinces habitées par les Arméniens à garantir la sécurité de ces populations contre les agressions et les violences des Circassiens et des Kurdes et à faire connaître périodiquement les mesures prises à cet effet, aux Puissances chargées d'en surveiller l'application.

Autant que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique en est informé, la Sublime Porte n'a rien fait pour donner connaissance des mesures qu'elle aurait pu prendre pour se conformer aux stipulations de l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin. Aucune disposition n'a été prise par elle relativement à la surveillance que doivent exercer les Puissances.

Tous les rapports émanant des Agents des Puissances prouvent que la situation de ces provinces est déplorable, et le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ne saurait admettre que les clauses du Traité de Berlin relatives à l'amélioration de cet état de choses restent plus longtemps à l'état de lettre-mort. Convaincu, d'ailleurs, que l'action commune et incessante des Puissances peut seule amener la Sublime Porte à s'acquitter des devoirs qui lui incombent à cet égard, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique en tant que Signataire du Traité du Berlin se voit dans l'obligation de réclamer l'entièreté et immédiate exécution de l'Article LXI de cet acte, et d'inviter le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan à exposer explicitement les mesures qu'il a prises pour se conformer aux dispositions de ce même acte.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Excellence je me fais un devoir d'appeler sa plus sérieuse attention sur la gravité des responsabilités que ferait accourir à la Sublime Porte tout nouveau retard apporté à l'exécution des mesures que les Puissances s'accordent à considérer comme imposées par l'intérêt de l'Empire Ottoman aussi bien que par celui de l'Europe.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signed) G. J. GOSCHEN.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

THE delay which has occurred in the execution of certain of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin has led to an interchange of views between the Signatory Powers. The result of this step has been the recognition on their part that it is an object of European interest that an end should be put to this delay, and the conclusion that the union of their efforts would be the surest means of securing the objects aimed at by the Act of the 13th July, 1878.

Convinced of this twofold necessity, and in complete agreement with the Cabinets of Berlin, Vienna, Paris, Rome, and St. Petersburg, Her Majesty's Government have instructed me to acquaint your Excellency with the point of view from which they look at the various questions raised by the non-execution of certain clauses of the Treaty of Berlin.

As regards the rectification of the Turco-Greek boundary, the Porte has for some time had before it a proposal made by the Marquis of Salisbury, and which had



received the assent of the other Powers, that an International Commission should proceed to the frontier provinces to determine this rectification.

Although the Government of the Sultan has pointed out the difficulty which might be encountered by such a Commission in the execution of the arrangement to which they were asked to agree, they have not yet given a definite reply. The Mediating Powers have consequently found themselves in the necessity of treating this silence as a refusal, and they have been obliged, as the next step, to consider the means by which the solution of the Greco-Turkish Frontier question—a solution which the Powers had in vain tried to arrive at in concert with the Sublime Porte, and which the interests both of Turkey and of Greece require—might now be secured as speedily as possible.

They have accordingly decided that their Representatives at the Court of His Imperial Majesty the German Emperor, should meet in Conference at Berlin on the 16th instant, in order to decide by a majority of votes, and with the assistance of officers possessed of the necessary technical knowledge, the line of frontier it will be best to adopt.

They have likewise agreed that when a decision shall have been come to by the Conference, a Commission may proceed to the frontier to settle the questions of detail arising out of the general plan.

The state of things created in another quarter by the question of the Montenegrin frontier requires, in the opinion of the Powers, more pressing attention and an immediate solution.

The Turkish authorities have failed to carry out the engagement entered into between the Porte and Montenegro, and adhered to by the Representatives of the Powers in the Protocol of the 18th April, 1880. They have compromised the agreement accepted by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan by allowing the Albanians to occupy certain frontier positions assigned to the Montenegrins, and a collision may at any time occur between the Montenegrins and the Albanian forces opposed to them.

The Powers, therefore, consider themselves absolutely bound to request the Government of His Imperial Majesty to state in the most explicit terms what their intentions are as regards the Montenegrin frontier, and to put into immediate execution the arrangement come to between the Sublime Porte and Montenegro. The Powers hold the Sublime Porte responsible in advance for the grave consequences that might be produced by a further delay in giving satisfaction to the rights acquired by the Principality.

In conclusion, the attention of the Powers has been drawn to a third point.

By the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin of the 13th July, 1878, the Sublime Porte undertook to carry out, without further delay, the improvements and administrative reforms demanded by local requirements in the provinces inhabited by the Armenians, and to guarantee their security against the attacks and the violence of the Circassians and Kurds, and periodically to make known the steps taken to this effect to the Powers, who are to superintend their application.

So far as Her Majesty's Government are aware, nothing has been done by the Sublime Porte to make known the steps which it may have taken in order to meet the stipulations of Article LXI of the Treaty of Berlin; nor have any measures been adopted by the Porte for the superintendence to be exercised by the Powers.

All the Reports furnished by the Agents of the Powers show that the state of these provinces is deplorable, and Her Majesty's Government cannot admit that the clauses of the Treaty of Berlin relating to the amelioration of this state of things should remain any longer a dead letter. They are convinced that only united and incessant pressure on their part will induce the Sublime Porte to fulfil its duties in this respect. Her Majesty's Government, therefore, as one of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, must demand the complete and immediate execution of Article LXI of that Treaty, and call upon the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan to state explicitly what the steps are which they have taken in order to fulfil the provisions of this Article.

In bringing these views to the knowledge of your Excellency, I consider it my duty to call your most serious attention to the grave responsibility the Porte would incur by any fresh delay in the execution of the measures which the Powers agree in considering to be essential to the interests of the Ottoman Empire and of Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. J. GOSCHEN.

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blown in the air. In fact, it was the first time that such a thing had ever been done in Turkey. The Sultan, however, was very pleased with the result, and the people were delighted. The next day, the Sultan sent a message to the ambassador, asking him to come to the palace to see the results of his work. The ambassador agreed, and the Sultan showed him the new bridge, which was now complete. The Sultan was very happy with the results, and the ambassador was very pleased with the way things had turned out.

The ambassador then returned to his embassy, where he wrote a report to the British government about the success of the operation. He also sent a copy of the report to the British government, so that they could be informed about what had happened. The report was well received, and the British government was pleased with the results.

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