

In the course of his argument M. Veniselos had maintained that Turkey was reopening a territorial question already decided by the Treaty of Neuilly, and he had sought in this way to avoid all discussion regarding Western Thrace; but by article 48 of that treaty the fate of inter-Allied Thrace was left for decision later on. The question, therefore, was still open. The Turkish delegation desired to state once more that it did not claim the retrocession of inter-Allied Western Thrace to Turkey; but they did wish to save the overwhelmingly Turkish population of that district from a régime against which it had constantly protested, and they therefore persisted in claiming that the people of that country, whose fate was still not settled, should have the right of self-determination which figures in the Great Powers' programme of peace.

Ismet Pasha then laid on the table of the commission statistics by cazas and villages for the area in dispute (Annex A).

He wished to give at once the total figures for the four cazas making up the area, viz. :—

—	Turks.	Greeks.	Bulgars.	Jews.	Armenians.
Gumuldjina	59,967	8,834	9,997	1,007	360
Dédéagatch	11,744	4,800	10,227	253	449
Sofoulou	14,736	11,542	5,490
Isketché	42,671	8,728	552	220	114
	129,118	33,904	26,266	1,480	923

Total, 191,191.

The idea of a plebiscite should not cause any anxiety to the Greek delegation, as the latter said they could assert that a large majority of the population in Western Thrace was Greek; if this were so, the plebiscite would confirm Greece's right to the possession of that country.

M. Veniselos had also mentioned the numerous mistakes made by the Greek Government during the course of several years of occupation. Ismet Pasha had no desire or intention to make the slightest reproach to M. Veniselos, but he begged leave to say that the faults to which he had alluded had cost the unfortunate Turkish population very dear. Was it admissible that these sufferings should continue in Western Thrace in consequence of the Greek occupation?

M. Veniselos had objected to the 1913 frontiers of Thrace, which left to Turkey the suburb of Kara-Agatch and the districts of Mustafa Pasha, Séimenli and Demotica. These objections appeared to the Turkish delegation quite groundless.

M. Veniselos had said that in that district the majority of the population was Greek; that was untrue; once again M. Veniselos had put forward statistics of his own, just as he previously supplied the Supreme Council with statistics of purely Greek origin in order to justify his demands for the annexation of essentially Turkish territory.

The Turkish figures contradicted those of M. Veniselos. The former, dating from 1914, were as follows :—

—	Turks.	Greeks.	Armenians.	Miscellaneous.
Mustafa Pasha	11,857	6,134	..	568
Séimenli	4,594	4,235	..	10
Demotica	20,110	24,447	174	1,212
Total	36,561	34,816	174	1,790

NUMBER of Villages :—

—	Turkish.	Greek.	Mixed.	Græco-Turkish.
Mustafa Pasha	28	7	1	1
Séimenli	17	10	1	..
Demotica	31	9	1	13
Total	76	26	3	14

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