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EASTERN (TURKEY).

[September 25.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 3.

[E 9882/27/44]

No. 1.

Sir H. Rumbold to the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston.—(Received September 25.)

(No. 822.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, September 16, 1922.

I HAVE the honour to report that Izzet Pasha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, called on me on the 14th instant to urge the desirability of the Allies immediately taking in hand, by means of a conference, the settlement of the questions of Eastern Thrace, the Straits, &c. I have reported in my telegram No. 417 what his Highness said on this subject.

2. There is no doubt that the Sultan's Government is genuinely anxious that the Allies should summon a conference to meet as soon as possible at a place of their own choosing. One reason for this eagerness for a conference is anxiety as to Mustapha Kemal's next move. Should Mustapha Kemal attempt to advance on Constantinople, and even, owing to a weakness of the Allied forces, succeed in reaching Scutari, a serious situation would arise. It is to the interest of the moderate elements in the Turkish Government, and especially of those who wish to maintain the present Sultan, that the territorial questions, other than that of Anatolia, should be settled before the Kemalists take control of the capital.

3. In the course of our conversation I mentioned to Izzet Pasha the substance of the telegram sent by the correspondent of the "Daily Mail" to his paper after his interview with Mustapha Kemal. I alluded to the way in which Mustapha Kemal had spoken of the probability of a change in the person of the Sultan. Izzet Pasha admitted that the present Sultan was looked upon with hostility by many of his subjects. Mustapha Kemal could not do away with the House of Osman, but Izzet Pasha implied that a change of sovereign was not improbable.

4. The outlook for the Sultan is indeed gloomy. His Majesty has steadily refused to telegraph his congratulations to Mustapha Kemal on the latter's victory over the Greeks, although I understand that his Government advise him to do so. He attended a service at the mosque in the grounds of the Seraglio Palace for those who had fallen in the recent fighting, and he went to the Mosque of the Conqueror yesterday where a similar service was held. It is significant that at least two of the important Turkish papers have passed this over in silence. Indeed, the Turkish press in the capital is now entirely Nationalist or Committee of Union and Progress in colour. The one anti-Nationalist paper, which was formed from a combination of the "Payam" and the "Sabah," has been dissolved.

5. I asked Izzet Pasha how he thought that the fusion between the Central and Angora Governments would be brought about. He was not very explicit in his reply. He affirmed with considerable emphasis, however, that he himself would never make any advances to the Nationalists. The Grand Vizier might take steps in that direction. He thought that a Grand Vizier would be appointed who would be acceptable to Turks of all shades.

I have, &c.

HORACE RUMBOLD,
High Commissioner.

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