

Perhaps it would be useful to point out that the town of Demotica had an historical importance for the Turks; it had been their first capital in Europe, and they had erected there numerous monuments, mosques, fountains, forts and palaces.

M. Veniselos had said that there had been Greeks in Thrace and Asia Minor for twenty centuries; history did not bear out these statements. The most authoritative historians, such as Maspéro in his "Histoire des Peuples de l'Orient" and Dr. Morgan in his "Scientific Study of the Caucasus," recognised that since the remotest times the population of Anatolia had been of Turkish race.

The economic data advanced by the chief of the Greek delegation were equally erroneous. In the districts under discussion the landed estates belonged in great part (84 per cent.) to the Turks, who, as everyone knew, were generally agriculturists firmly rooted to the soil (see Annex B). The chief working and producing element in the population was the Turkish peasant; in these districts, as elsewhere, the Greek—who preferred a business career—was an essentially mobile element. incapable of acquiring possession of land save to a very small extent.

M. Veniselos had mentioned the voluntary cession of these districts by Turkey in 1915, and had drawn the conclusion that the Turkish demand was not justified. Turkey had not ceded that region voluntarily, as M. Veniselos, M. Nincic and M. Duca alleged. That cession had taken place under pressure of gravest circumstances, and had never been ratified by the Turkish Parliament. After the armistice the Allied Powers themselves had hastened to annul the Turco-Bulgarian Convention, the duration of which had, in fact, been very ephemeral; and the political situation had completely changed since the date of its conclusion.

As regards the question of security, which Ismet Pasha had advanced in support of his claims, M. Veniselos apparently brushed aside a necessity which was recognised by every country. It was only natural that a State, when putting forward a certain line for its frontiers, should try to obtain such a minimum of security as was indispensable for the defence of a given region; that in no way implied a progressively increasing demand for annexation of territory.

Since Adrianople was being given back to Turkey, it was indispensable for her to recover also the territory comprising the railway section Kouléli Bourgas-Moustapha Pasha, which connected Adrianople with Constantinople.

In order to guarantee the security of Adrianople and of the above-mentioned railway, and with a view to maintaining relations of confidence and cordiality with her neighbours, it was indispensable for Turkey that the frontier should be removed as far as necessary from the town of Adrianople and from the railway line.

Take the suburb of Kara-Agatch by itself. The Turkish delegation found it difficult to understand why the Greek delegation claimed to remove from Turkish sovereignty a quarter of a town which was now indisputably Turkish. Could anyone think the co-existence of two administrations in the same town natural?

It had been argued that the suburb of Kara-Agatch was of no importance to Turkey from the point of view of communications with Adrianople, and that these communications could be assured by other means; but these other means were not defined; in reality there were no other means of ensuring these communications, and without the suburb of Kara-Agatch the town of Adrianople could not maintain normal relations with other parts of the country, and would inevitably be condemned to economic stagnation. In that suburb all the property belonged to the inhabitants of Adrianople. Further, the Allied note of the 23rd September restored Adrianople to Turkey; in consequence it restored also the suburb of Kara-Agatch as forming an integral part of the city.

Ismet Pasha wished to add that during the negotiations which led up to the signature of the Convention of Mudania, General Mombelli, the Italian delegate, had spoken to him at the fourth meeting, held on the 6th October, 1922, as follows *verbatim*:—

"Allow me to make an official declaration to your Excellency in the name of the Italian Government:—

"1. Considering that from the military point of view the fortress of Adrianople comprises the town, its suburb of Kara-Agatch and the ring of forts, including those on the right bank of the Maritza;

"2. Assuming that the expression 'including Adrianople,' which appears in the Allied note of the 23rd September, 1922, can fairly be interpreted in the sense given above," &c.

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