

EASTERN (TURKEY).

[April 3.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 4.

[E 3510/5/44]

No. 1.

*Minutes of the Eighth Meeting of Foreign Ministers at the Quai d'Orsay
at 10 A.M., March 28, 1922.—(Received at Foreign Office, April 3.)*

	Present :	
For France		M. Poincaré. M. de Perretti de la Rocca. M. Bargeton.
For Great Britain		Marquess Curzon of Kedleston. Mr. R. G. Vansittart. Mr. E. G. Forbes-Adam.
For Italy		Signor Schanzer. Marquis Visconti-Venosta. Signor Guariglia.

Interpreter, M. Camerlynck.

M. Gout was present during the discussion of the Genoa Conference.

There were also present during the discussion of Annex 1 :—

Marshal Foch.	General Sir C. Harington.
General Gouraud.	Colonel Heywood.
General Weygand.	General Marietti.

Admiral Margerie and Commander Ramsay were present for the consideration of Annex 2.

M. Hutchinson and M. Gout were also present for the discussion of Annex 3.
The military experts attended.

Conscription and Gendarmerie.

Marshal Foch read the recommendations of the military experts (Annex 1).

M. Poincaré pointed out that the first recommendation did not amount to the abolition of conscription.

Lord Curzon reminded the Conference that in the case of Bulgaria and of all the other ex-enemy States the Allies had enforced the complete and immediate abolition of conscription by the Treaty of Peace, as a step towards general disarmament. The Allies should certainly reaffirm the principle, and not insert in the treaty the idea that the abolition of conscription might be postponed, still less any period for such postponement. Perhaps on grounds of expediency it might be necessary to make certain modifications after the entry into force of the treaty, as had been done in the case of Bulgaria, but the principle itself must be insisted on in the treaty. He enquired if *Marshal Foch* agreed.

Marshal Foch said that he did.

M. Poincaré pointed out that they must also remember the question whether the Turks would accept what was proposed. If they did not accept, what were the Allies to do? They must make every endeavour to bring the Turks into the proposed conference.

Lord Curzon replied that if the Turks refused the most reasonable terms which the Allies were offering as a whole, they would offend the public opinion of the world, but the Allies should certainly not again modify their proposals in consequence. They should affirm the principle of conscription in their offer of general terms.

M. Poincaré said that his observations were of a general nature and he was in agreement as to the principle. They must remember the public opinion of Islam

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