

The Balkan Wars

British consular reports from Macedonia in the final years of the Ottoman Empire

ORIGINAUX

The number of cart-loads of loot transported to Belgrade should have been 80 and not 40 as given in my previous despatch. Amongst the loot were also the telephone apparatus and a quantity of beds.

[FO 424/236]

No 311

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received December 14)

Constantinople, December 8, 1912

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose herewith copies of four despatches which I have lately received from His Majesty's vice-consul at Monastir, containing a survey, which may also be of some interest to the War Office, of the military operations which culminated in the fall of Monastir on the 19th November.

I have addressed a despatch to Mr. Greig, approving his conduct in these very difficult circumstances.

I have, &c.

Gerard Lowther

No 311.1

Enclosure 1 in No 311

(Confidential)

Vice-Consul Greig to Sir G. Lowther

Monastir, October 29, 1912

Sir,

I have the honour to communicate to your Excellency the following information:

October 26.—Three hundred and thirteen soldiers (Anatolians or Albanian volunteers) and five officers sent from Monastir to Karaferia.

Sixty Albanian volunteers, fifteen waggons of provisions,

two waggons of tents, and one waggon of ammunition sent from Monastir to Sorovitch.

October 27.—One thousand three hundred Albanian volunteers arrived at Monastir (1,000 from Dibra, under Mersim Dema, 200 from Ochrida, under Eyyoub Sabri, and 100 from Resna, under Niazi).

About 550 miscellaneous survivors of Kumanovo, 150 wounded soldiers, 17 waggons of damaged artillery, 13 waggonloads of damaged military vehicles, 20 waggonloads of oxen, and 12 waggonloads of provisions arrived at Monastir from Salonica.

October 28.—One thousand five hundred Malissores, of Dibra, arrived here under Khaireddin Bey Pustina, and 300 under Shakir Bey, of Dibra.

Nine hundred and twenty Albanian volunteers, with Mersim Dema, Eyyoub Sabri, and Niazi Bey, armed with Martinis and without uniforms, left Monastir for Sorovitch. (Niazi Bey since gone to Neveska, to the south of Florina, where he will, no doubt, be exposed to less danger than at Kailar or Verria, with the alleged intention of dealing with the Greek bands!)

Eighteen waggonloads of damaged artillery arrived here from Salonica.

October 29.—Two thousand one hundred miscellaneous survivors of Kumanovo, with six officers and three waggonloads of damaged military vehicles, arrived here from Salonica.

Besides about 2,000 Albanian irregulars, without uniforms and armed with Martinis, there are at present in Monastir about 3,000 Elbassan and Anatolian reservists.

The survivors of Kumanovo who have arrived here via Salonica since the 27th October number about 6 officers and 2,700 men: of whom 150 were wounded. The spirit of officers and men seems to be utterly broken. Many have deserted and are in hiding.

Other troops of the VIth Army Corps who took part in the Kumanovo operations have arrived at Perlepé by way of Kuprilu. Reports as to their numbers vary between 10,000 and 15,000. They are said to have about twenty guns belonging to various batteries and regiments ; but, according to all accounts, ammunition is scarce.

As reported in my telegram No 59, the commander of the Monastir redif division, Mehmet Ali Bey (now Mehmet Ali Pasha), who returned to Monastir on the 27th instant from Kuprilu, stated that the Monastir redif division suffered severely at Kumanovo, and

that the Monastir, Ochrida, Resna, Florina, and Kirchevo battalions were annihilated. He also reported the almost total loss of the artillery of the 17th and 18th divisions.

The truth seems to be that the Albanian redifs bolted, causing a panic, and that the number of killed was comparatively small. The highest estimate that has been quoted to me of the losses at Kumanovo by the VIth Army Corps was 3,000 killed.

I have not been able to satisfactorily test Mehmet Ali Pasha's statement regarding the artillery of the 18th division, but what he said of the 17th division is probably true.

It is, however, to be observed that since the 26th instant thirty-eight waggonloads of damaged artillery have arrived here from Salonica; it is unknown to what extent these may have contributed to the artillery reported to be at present at or in the neighbourhood of Perlepé.

As reported in my telegram No 26, the commander-in-chief of the western army, Ali Riza Pasha and his staff arrived here on the 26th instant from Salonica. They remain here.

The Albanian volunteers, whose arrival here was reported in a previous paragraph, had no rifles of their own; or, if they have any, preferred not to bring them to Monastir.

The authorities offered them old-pattern Mausers (with a magazine for nine cartridges), which they refused. After clamouring for rifles of the newest pattern, the stock of which is completely exhausted, they were induced to accept Martinis.

It is generally believed that the sole object of these irregulars is to obtain rifles, and that the majority of them will desert at the first opportunity. Meanwhile, their presence in Monastir in considerable numbers and very little under control is a source of uneasiness to both Christians and Moslems.

So far as can be ascertained from the little reliable news obtainable, the Greek column from Larissa, advancing by way of Ellasona, and the column from Trikala, marching by way of Kalabaka-Velemisti-Dizkata, united on the 23rd instant near Serfidjé, which they occupied without opposition; an inferior Turkish force, defeated with serious loss at Mount Meluna, and again in the Sarandoporon Pass, retiring in great disorder towards Karadzalar (north-east of Kozhani), where it is believed to have been reinforced by nine battalions of Castamouni redifs and two batteries of field-

guns dispatched from Karaferia.¹

From Sarandoporon to Karadzalar the progress of the Turks seems to have been one continuous flight. The commandant at Kozhani made a tardy and ill-timed attempt to reinforce the retreating Turks and to enable them to make a stand at Serfidjé by dispatching a force of Dibra redifs and two batteries of field-guns, with orders to occupy the high land of Demir Kapu, commanding the junction of the Ellassona and Diskata roads a little south-west of Serfidjé. But this reinforcement, on reaching the Bistritsa bridge, ascertained that the town was already evacuated and withdrew.

On the 26th, a Greek force from Serfidjé of unknown strength, but said to include a cavalry brigade, entered Kozhani unopposed, after dispersing a Dibra redif battalion encountered on the way. The Turks retired to the heights west of the Kozhani-Kailar road.

Since the occupation of Serfidjé, the movements of the main body of Greeks has been a matter of speculation. When last heard of it was on the Inje Karasou, between Serfidjé and Karaferia, as reported in my telegram No 61.

Another Greek column is reported to have occupied Grevena on the 22nd, and more recently Lapsista (Naselitch) and Satista. But details are lacking, and there is an inclination to suppose that these places have merely been cut off by Greek bands.

Yet another Greek column, advancing towards Yanina, is said to have met with a reverse at Louros.

Two Greek bands are reported to have appeared in the hills immediately west of Monastir.

I have, &c.

C. A. Greig

¹ The united strength of the Larissa and Trikala columns, of which the former was the larger, is believed here to have been about 70,000 men. Both sides lost heavily in the Sarandoporon-Pass. The losses of the Gorcha, Castoria, and Starovo battalions were especially heavy. Twenty-one out of a total of twenty-four guns are said to have fallen into the hands of the Greeks. The Turks attribute their defeat to the superior numbers of their opponents, to their inferiority in artillery, to shortage of machine-gun ammunition, and to panic caused by the flight of large numbers of Albanians. After the evacuation of Serfidjé and before its complete occupation by the Greeks, a fight seems to have taken place in the town between Christians and Moslems, and a considerable number of persons are believed to have been killed and wounded on both sides. It is understood that several Christian prisoners were killed. In an encounter with the Trikala column at Dizkata the Naselitch redif battalion is reported to have been decimated.

No 311.2

Enclosure 2 in No 311

(Confidential)

Vice Consul Greig to Sir G. Lowther

Monastir, November 2, 1912

Sir,

As reported in my despatch No 77, a Greek column occupied Kozhani on the 26th, and the Turks withdrew to the heights west of the Kozhani-Kailar road.

On the 28th the Greeks, probably reinforced, were reported on the high ground immediately north-east of Kailar, which was occupied the same day after a distant exchange of fire with some Turkish artillery. On the morning of the 29th the Greeks, continuing their march towards Sorovitch, encountered and dispersed a small Turkish force at Nalbandkeuy, capturing four mountain-guns. The composition of this force is unknown. It is said to have consisted mainly of Albanian redifs and volunteers. Five hundred wounded, mainly Albanians, have arrived here.² Sorovitch, evacuated, was occupied by the Greeks on the morning of the 30th; and almost simultaneously another Greek column³ appeared at Posideri, a few miles west of Florina, the surroundings of which are infested with Greek bands.

On the 28th, with Kailar occupied and Sorovitch threatened, Monastir was in danger, and Ali Riza Pasha decided to reinforce the insignificant force opposing the Greek advance with part of the troops assembled at Perlepé.⁴

Since the 30th these troops have been arriving in a continuous flow. They are sent by rail to Florina, beyond which point the line is no longer safe. Food was scarce at Perlepé, and they are in a wretched condition. Many of them are without rifles. Knapsacks and greatcoats, and, in most cases, the whole personal equipment, have

² It is difficult to explain the resistance offered by the very inferior Turkish force at Nalbandkeuy unless the purpose was to gain time for the completion of defensive works farther north, in the Kirli Derbend.

³ It was perhaps this column which occupied Grevena, Naselitch, Satista.

⁴ As reported in my despatch No 77 the troops at Perlepé were the debris of the VIth Army Corps from Kumanovo, now said to number 18,000 to 20,000 men with a few guns and little ammunition. Between Keuprilu and Perlepé there are also reported to be portions of the Vth Army Corps amounting to about five battalions. They are expected to make a stand in the Babuna district against a Servian force supposed to be descending from Keuprilu.

vanished. They enter the town without any attempt at formation. Many of the first to arrive deserted and sold their rifles for a few medjidiehs. Gendarmes are now posted permanently at the corners of all the side-streets, and incoming soldiers are herded through the main thoroughfare to the barracks and thence to the railway station. In the panic at Kumanovo, the men, in many cases, fired on their officers, some of whom, for self-protection, cast off their badges of rank and put on the uniform of the rank and file, in which they arrived here.

In marked contrast is the cheerful bearing of the Albanians, who have as yet taken no part in the fighting. But no one seems to have any further belief in their fighting value, least of all Javid Pasha, who is said to be taking precautions against the infection of his other troops in the next battle by their anticipated indiscipline and flight.

The force sent from Perlepé to oppose the Greeks consists of 10,000 to 15,000 infantry, 150 cavalry, and about twelve guns. The infantry is officially described as fifteen battalions.

Without taking into account the force under Hassan Tahsin Pasha, which retired from the Sarandoporon Pass through Serfidjé to Karadzalar (north-east of Kailar), as to the whereabouts of which there is no reliable indication, the troops opposing the Greek advance on Monastir may be roughly detailed as follows:—

Six thousand men who retired from Sorovitch, and may at present be holding the Kirli Derbend. They probably include the 18th Nishanji battalion, the 1st battalion of the 54th regiment, and they may have six of the mountain-guns from Dibra;

Two thousand Anatolian redifs from Monastir; One hundred and fifty cavalry; and

Ten thousand to 15,000 infantry, with twelve guns and two machine-gun companies from Perlepé.

That is, a total of about 18,000 to 23,000, with perhaps eighteen guns and two machine-gun companies, or a total of at least 30,000 to 35,000, with more artillery if it includes Hassan Tahsin Pasha's command.

The principal officers of this force are Javid Pasha, commanding the VIth Army Corps; Mehmet Ali Pasha, commanding the Monastir redif division; and Mustapha Kerimi Pasha, commanding the 17th Nizam division.

The opposing Greeks are said to be considerably stronger in

every respect, especially in artillery.⁵ They are also supported on all sides by well-armed bands of irregulars, and have given arms to the Christian population of the districts through which they have passed.

Nor are the Turks likely to be considerably reinforced. For the 1,000 or so soldiers (mainly Elbassan redifs) still in Monastir provide a bare margin of safety against the bands of Greek, Bulgarian, and Servian irregulars in the hills on every side. Amongst other bands, one of about 250 men is near Megarovo, to the north-west of Monastir, and another of about the same strength is near Makovo, in the Morihovo district, in the north-east of Monastir, where arms are reported to have been distributed broadcast amongst the Christian population. The Kirchevo region is said to be full of Bulgarian and Servian bands.

It would also be rash to weaken the troops holding the Keuprilu-Perlepé-Monastir road against an expected Servian descent. In fact, for all that is known, the Serbs may be here before the Greeks, by way either of Perlepé or Kirchevo.

It is anticipated that an attempt will be made to hold the Kirli Derbend (north of Sorovitch). If that position is forced from the south, or turned by a Greek force approaching, as is suspected, on the east from Vodhena and Ostrovo, a stand will probably be made at Banitsa, where Javid Pasha is reported to be entrenching so as to command the railway and the junction of the Sorovitch-Monastir and Vodhena-Ostrovo-Monastir roads.

The second Turkish line of defence runs from Kelenik eastwards astride the railway. Yet a third line of defence runs from Negochani eastwards, likewise across the railway. It is held by such redif battalions as Mehmet Ali Pasha has been able to reorganise.

In the event of defeat, the only retreat open to the Turks offering any hope of more than temporary escape would be into Albania by the Resna road. Even that will be closed, if meanwhile the Serbs break through on the Perlepé road; or if another Servian force has arrived by way of the Treska Valley and Kirchevo or by way of Kalkandelen and Kirchevo. Many bands of irregulars are said to have appeared round Giyavato, the key to the Resna road.

With the approach of their enemies the attitude of the Moslems towards the Christians has undergone a remarkable change. They

⁵ Wounded soldiers who have arrived here report that the Greeks are using machine-guns mounted on motor-cars, and that they cause great havoc.

are now in terror of the treatment which, they conceive, may await them if the town is occupied, and especially if fighting takes place in the streets. More than the Greek or Servian soldiery, or even than the rapacity of the Albanian irregulars, they dread the reprisals of the Christians of the town itself. Dignity and patriotism have taken flight with astonishing suddenness. Headed by three leading notables, by the mufti, who is insisting on the iniquity of profitless and wanton bloodshed, and by the Ulema, they induced the spiritual heads of the Christian communities to join in petitioning the military authorities to abandon the idea of defending the town.⁶ Failing in that, they succeeded in coming to an agreement with the Christians who are in equal fear of pillage or massacre by the Moslem riff-raff and Albanians, to reciprocally abstain from aggression in all circumstances.

In the course of these negotiations the Christians, with the support of the consuls, obtained a valuable concession, the release of the persons arrested in the circumstances, reported in my despatch No 73. These persons, in number more than 1,000, were confined in the barracks, and would have been in a precarious position in the event of a bombardment or of disturbances.

Notwithstanding this, all communities, especially the Moslems, are still in a state of great anxiety. The shops have several times been closed abruptly on false alarms. Many Moslems, including the president of the criminal court, the public prosecutor, and several officers, have asked for shelter at this vice-consulate in the event of bombardment or conflict.⁷ Many Christians have also applied. The latter are resolved to defend themselves desperately if attacked. Many who have no better weapons have brought petroleum to be thrown over their assailants and fired with "Bengal matches."

The unwarlike attitude of the officials and Moslem non-combatants has annoyed Ali Riza Pasha, who is, at present declaring his intention of making of Monastir a Plevna.

The Moslem refugees from the districts occupied by the Greeks are said to number between 12,000 and 20,000. Numbers of them are accommodated in the mosques.

⁶ They invited the members of the consular corps to associate themselves with this request, but they were unanimously of opinion that, in view of the comparatively strong Turkish force still in being, action of the kind on their part would be open to misinterpretation. With a view to the measures necessary for the protection of the lives of their subjects and their property, the consuls collectively requested the vali to inform them whether the military authorities propose as a last resort to defend the town itself, and were answered in the affirmative.

⁷ The one hope to which the local Moslems still cling is an intervention of the Powers, especially of England.

I have, &c.
C. A. Grieg

No 311.3
Enclosure 3 in No 311
(Confidential)
Vice Consul Greig to Sir G. Lowther

Monastir, November 16, 1912

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following account of the events of the past few days:-

The Greek troops marching on Monastir, as reported in my despatch No 79 of the 2nd instant, proved much weaker than was anticipated and greatly inferior to Javid Pasha's force. They amounted to 10,000-12,000 men of the 5th division, with twelve field guns, and two squadrons of cavalry commanded by an officer named Mathiopoulo. It occupied Sorovitch, and passing unopposed through the Kirli Derbend, took up a position at Cherovo, compelling the Turks to abandon the railway south of Florina. On the 3rd instant Javid Pasha, then at Banitsa with the 16th and 18th divisions, sent the 17th division and the Monastir redif division, forming his right wing, towards Sorovitch, by way of Vrtolom, Leskovets, and Negovani, whilst the 6th Nishanji regiment occupied Gornichevo on his left. The same day he himself advanced towards Cherovo. The attack, begun on the 3rd, seems to have been renewed on two sides on the 4th, when the Nishanji regiment from Gornichevo occupied the hills east of the Greek position. This move decided the issue, for the Greeks mistook the Nishanjis for a larger force, evacuated Cherovo, and retired towards Sorovitch. In spite of heavy losses they retired through the pass in good order, but near Sorovitch they realised that their escape was threatened by the Turkish right wing, a panic ensued, and they fled towards Kailar, abandoning all their artillery at the Nalbandkeuy bridge. Their destruction might have been complete had Javid Pasha disposed of any considerable body of cavalry. As it was, the pursuit slackened at Nalbandkeuy, and appears to have ceased altogether near Kailar.

Javid Pasha estimates the Greek losses at 1,500 to 2,000 killed.

He states that the Turks had only sixty men killed. He captured twelve guns,⁸ large numbers of rifles, and a quantity of hospital stores. Seventeen Greek prisoners including a non-commissioned officer, have arrived here.

Javid Pasha returned to Monastir on the 7th instant with the 16th and 18th divisions, leaving the 17th division at Kailar, and the Monastir redif division at Eksisou. The latter is now reported to be between Banitsa and Ostrovo, and a Greek column of unknown strength is said to be between Vladova and Ostrovo, Vodhena is occupied by the Greeks, who are using the railway between Gida (and perhaps Salonica) and Vladova. The Turks have destroyed a portion of the line between Pateli and Ostrovo.

By the 3rd instant it was vaguely known here that a force including all or part of the Vth Army Corps, under Karasaid Pasha, was retiring on Monastir by way of Kuprilu and Perlepe, and that the VIIth Army Corps under Fethi Pasha was approaching by way of Kalkandelen and Kirchevo, and that both were retreating before Servian or Serbo-Bulgarian columns, the strength of which was quite unknown.

The following is a brief account of what is at present known of the progress of the two armies:-

1. The VIIth Army Corps, under Fethi Pasha, after repeated engagements between Kalkandelen and Kirchevo, evacuated the latter place on the 5th instant, withdrawing by way of Pribilchi. On the 8th it reached Kukurechani, a point only 6 miles north of Monastir.

2. The force under Karasaid Pasha, after taking part in a series of engagements to the north of Perlepe, evacuated that place on the 5th, retiring to Topolchani, where a fierce encounter took place on the 6th. On the 5th, 6th, and 7th, Karasaid's troops were arriving here in utter confusion, and on the 8th the remnants of his command were camped at Orizari on the outskirts of this town.

The return of Javid Pasha to Monastir on the 7th instant with the 16th and 18th divisions from the pursuit of the Greeks was dictated by the disastrous course of the northern campaign. It is believed that credit is due mainly to him for the effort which has made further resistance possible.

⁸ Eleven of these guns are in good order, and are, it is understood, being used against the Serbs.

To restore in some degree the confidence of the troops opposed to the Serbs, the soldiers left at Kailar and Eksisou after the successful Greek campaign have been gradually drafted into the battalions under Fethi and Karasaid Pasha and replaced by fugitives from Kirchevo and Perlepé; the rifles distributed amongst the Moslem population of Monastir have been called in and given to soldiers who had thrown away their arms in the flight; 2,000 gendarmes have been formed into four battalions; order⁹ has to some extent been re-established amongst the demoralised mob to which the three armies assembled here were reduced; and a plan has been worked out with a view to the defence of Monastir and keeping open a line of retreat by the Resna road.

The position taken up by the Turkish troops during the past few days is believed to be as follows:—

The left, commanded by Javid Pasha, consists of the Istib division and four battalions of gendarmes, with two machine-gun companies, and seven field-guns. It is rumoured that part of the Jakova division is also with the Turkish left. The exact distribution of these troops is unknown, but units are reported to be at Gijavat, Gopesh, Lera, Prevalets, and Oblakovo.

The centre, under Fethi Pasha, is believed to extend roughly from Lisolai to Kukurechani. It consists of troops of the VIth and VIIth Army Corps, with most of the available artillery, estimated at about thirty guns.

The right, under Karasaid Pasha, appears to extend from Kirklina to Karaman, its extreme right guarded by the extensive swamps along the bank of the Cherna Karasou. It consists of troops of the Vth and VIIth Army Corps, with about twenty guns.

A reserve of a few regiments is at Orizari and Svieti Nedyela, close to Monastir.

It has become impossible to ascertain at all accurately the strength of the Turkish troops. The following is perhaps not very wide of the mark :—

(a.) Troops round Monastir—

1. Troops of the Vth Army Corps	15000
2. Troops of the VIIth Army Corps	10000

⁹ The difficulty of reorganisation is enhanced by the shortage of officers. Over 50 per cent are believed to be lacking owing to casualties and desertion. The Istib division is said to have only seven officers.

3. Troops of the VIth Army Corps—	
The 16th division (Ishtib)	7000
The 18th division (Dibra)	5000
(b.) Troops south of Monastir—	
4. The 17th division at Kailar	7000
5. The Monastir redif division between Gornichevo and Ostrovo	5000
Total	49000

The Turks estimate the strength of the Serbs at 60,000, with an immense superiority in artillery.

The Servian advance has probably been delayed by a heavy fall of snow on the 7th and 8th. The bulk of the columns approaching by way of Kalkandelen-Kirchevo and Kuprilu-Perlepé have joined hands, and Servian troops are now arriving at Petilap, a spot only 9 miles north of the most advanced Turkish trenches. Another force, probably detached from the Kalkandelen-Kirchevo column, is threatening Gopesh, and appears to be already in contact with Javid Pasha, firing being heard to-day in that direction. Firing is also audible east of Novak on the extreme Turkish right, tending to confirm the belief that the Serbs or Bulgarians are approaching east of the Cherna Karasou as well.

There is not a single officer in Monastir, who regards a prolonged resistance as possible.

The wounded are being sent to five regular hospitals in Monastir and to seven schools, two orphanages, and the military club. There are now about 2,500 patients. Accommodation of a kind remains for about 1,500. The temporary hospitals are in many cases destitute of beds, medicines and instruments. In the event of a protracted campaign, their condition will be appalling. All the civilian doctors of the town have been given the temporary rank of army medical officers.

The food supply of the Turkish troops is disgracefully mismanaged. The town is full of soldiers begging for bread, although the military authorities state that they have ample supplies for months. Several battalions are said to have been left long periods without food during damp and cold weather. The prices of all food-stuffs are rapidly nearing famine figures. Great distress will prevail unless communications are speedily re-established, for the

influx of Moslem refugees from the districts occupied or threatened by the allies and the presence of large bodies of troops have more than doubled the normal population of the town. The outskirts of Monastir are strewn with dead animals, forage being scarce.

Order has been maintained—or has maintained itself—surprisingly considering the position. Apart from the pillaging of a few bakers' shops by starving soldiers, there has been in Monastir no incident whatsoever to record.

In the outlying districts many villages have been partly or entirely destroyed by the combatants, and by the Greek, Bulgarian, Serb, and Moslem bands.

Reports are continually coming in of acts of violence and revenge inevitable at such a time in a country where animosities of race, religion, and language have so long been rife. In most cases it is impossible to verify these reports, but a list of cases believed to be genuine is given in the enclosure to this despatch.

On the 12th instant Eyyoub Sabri Bey left Monastir for Ochrida for the purpose of raising Albanian bands against the Serbs. Mehmet Pasha of Kalkandelen, who arrived here with Fethi Pasha, has gone with him.

I have, &c.
C. A. Greig

No 311.4
Enclosure 4 in No 311

Diary of various Incidents in the Neighbourhood of Monastir

October 20.—Haralambos, the Bulgarian priest of Velmei (kaza of Ochrida), and Tseli Naoum Grozdnof and Mitzi Naoum, Bulgarians of Lazhani (kaza of Ochrida), seized by a number of Moslem notables from Khoroshista, Ochrida, and Delagojda, who conveyed them to Pesochani, where they were kept for three days without food and tortured from time to time by the application of hot eggs to their feet and armpits. They were then sent to Monastir and imprisoned. Haralambos is known to have long had suspicious relations with the Bulgarian committee. Mehmet Ali, of Ochrida, a committeeman, appears to have played the principal part in this incident.

October 28.—The Greek monastery of Bukovo (kaza of Monastir) plundered by Albanian irregulars.

October 29.—Lambush Nestorof, of Struga; Heracli Philipchef, of Ochrida; Ivan Groupchef, of Ochrida; and Kristo Teodorof, of Prisoviani, murdered by gendarmes between Resna and Gijavat.

These men had been apprehended during the recent wholesale arrests of Bulgarians and Greeks suspected of having relations with the bands, and were at the time of their murder being conveyed to Monastir for imprisonment.

The Committee of Union and Progress, and especially Niazi Bey, is believed to have inspired this outrage.

October 30.—Jabiani and Kalenik, Bulgarian villages in the kaza of Florina, sacked by Albanian irregulars.

Kotori Zir and Kotori Bala sacked and burnt by Albanian irregulars. Both are Christian villages in the Florina kaza.

October 31.—The Moslem village of Mahalla, in the kaza of Florina, destroyed by a Greek band under Liondef, in revenge for the destruction of Kotori Zir and Kotori Bala. Several of the inhabitants were killed. The Greek band seems to have possessed a mountain gun.

Porodin, an Albanian village in the kaza of Monastir, plundered by Albanians from Ostrets.

November 2.—Banitsa and Zapardani, important Christian villages in the kaza of Florina, burnt during Javid Pasha's advance against the Greeks. The Turks say that the Greeks, who had stored a quantity of straw in these villages, fired it when they retreated, and so caused the conflagration. The truth probably is that the Turks burnt them because they were a resort of Greek bands.

November 3.—The Bulgarian leader Tchaoulef, with a strong band, destroyed a Turkish patrol of ten men between Ochrida and Kirchevo.

November 3-5.—Cherovo, Sorovitch, Eksisou, Negovani, Leskovets, Ostrovo, and Patelli destroyed during Javid Pasha's campaign against the Greeks.

The Turks seem to be systematically destroying villages which have sheltered irregular bands—a necessary military measure.

November 9.—Encounter at Novak (kaza of Monastir) between Turkish troops and a Bulgarian band from the Morihovo district. The band seems to have possessed a mountain gun.

The village took fire during the encounter and several houses

were burnt.

November 10.—Kukurechani, Mogila, and Dogrijani, Bulgarian villages in the kaza of Monastir, destroyed partially by Turkish troops.

The local authorities accuse the Serbs of wholesale plunder, massacre, and outrage at Kirchevo and Perlepé, and at the Moslem villages of Varbovets, Erekovtsi, Kanatlartsi, and Moussentsi (all in the Perlepé district).

They state that at Kailar the Greeks deliberately burnt thirty Moslems' houses, as well as the konak, municipal offices, and the offices of the Régie, and that they butchered twenty non-combatant Moslems; and that they set fire to the hospital at Naselitch, burning the inmates alive.

In the course of his Greek campaign Javid Pasha disbanded most of the Albanian irregulars, whose indiscipline proved incorrigible. The remainder, who are mainly from the Dibra district, are gradually returning to their homes, which are, they believe, threatened by the Serbs.

No 311.5

Enclosure 5 in No 311

Vice-Consul Greig to Sir G. Lowther

(Confidential)

Monastir, November 28, 1912

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency on the events of the past few days as follows:—

November 16.—Throughout the day the Serbs were taking up positions round the whole Turkish front. The Servian artillery at Chernobok, near Mogila, and at Novak engaged the artillery of the Turkish centre and right. Shrapnell from Mogila began to fall among the reserves at Orizari. By the evening the Turkish centre and right appeared to be roughly separated from the Serbs by the Cherna Karasou except at Tirn on the extreme right, which was occupied towards midday by Serbs who crossed the river from Trap. The Turks in consequence advanced a battery to a point almost due west of Tirn, and fighting continued at that point till evening, both Turks and Serbs standing in water in many places up to their knees.

The only news of the operations on the Turkish left was to the effect that Oblakovo and Sekirani were occupied by the Serbs.

Ali Riza Pasha, commander-in-chief of the western army, fearing the turning of his right flank, gave orders that the engines in Monastir railway station should be kept ready to leave at a moment's notice with as much rolling-stock as possible. He himself left in the night by rail for Florina. Several villages were on fire east of Monastir beyond the Cherna Karasou.

A Turkish retreat was considered imminent.

November 17.—The Turkish left was reported to have retired, after some hard fighting, from its first line towards Gijavat and Kajhani.

The Serb attack on the Turkish right was rapidly developing, numerous batteries having been placed in position during the night east of the river at Trap, Vlaklar, Meglenchi, Dobromir, and Biljanik. Against this attack the Turks were holding the line Karaman-Chekriksi in the midst of the swamps.

By evening their artillery fire had become feeble, and there was a brisk fusillade across the river.

Towards the Turkish centre, too, the Serbs were closing in.

The batteries at Mogila were pushed further south, and a few shells fell, without doing much damage, in the suburbs of Monastir.

Shevket Bey, commanding the 7th Cavalry Brigade, left for Kenali (south of Monastir) with the remaining cavalry, about 150 sabres.

November 18.—The batteries at Mogila and east of the river continued to bombard the Turkish right evidently with effect. Towards midday, parties of soldiers entered Monastir in flight.

Early in the afternoon the Turkish artillery on the extreme right ceased firing, and masses of Servian infantry were visible in the swamps this side of the river. By 2 p.m. the retreat of the Turks from Orizari was in full progress, and before nightfall they had vanished towards Florina. A few Turks continued to resist until late in the evening in a hopeless position in the swamps near Chekriksi. Their fate is unknown.

Soon after the departure of the troops the vali, in answer to enquiries made by the consular corps, showed us a letter addressed to him by Zekki Pasha, stating that all the positions round Monastir had been evacuated and that the whole of the western army was retiring towards Florina.

The same evening the consular representatives were approached

by a deputation representing the various communities who were anxious to treat for the surrender of the town through our medium. We were, however, unanimously of opinion that such a step on our part was unnecessary, and our action was accordingly confined to advising the deputation as to the manner of handing over the place.

November 19.—In accordance with our advice white flags were hoisted early in the morning over the barracks and other Government buildings, and a deputation consisting of the mayor, the mufti, and the heads of the several communities proceeded with a white flag to the nearest Servian outpost, through which they communicated with the competent authorities.

About midday Servian troops entered Monastir and proceeded to the barracks amidst scenes of great enthusiasm.

Others camped in the neighbourhood of the town.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, commanding the 1st Army, arrived on the 20th from Perlepé with Prince Alexis.

With the Servian army arrived M. Gendich, a former Minister of the Interior, and the British, Italian, French, and Russian military attachés.

By the 22nd, a Provisional Government had been formed, consisting of a military governor, an assistant military governor, a chief of police, and a prefect. An acting mayor has also been appointed, assisted by a committee of five advisers and a secretary. The acting mayor is a Serb. The committee is composed of a Moslem (the ex-mayor), two Serbs, a Bulgarian, and a Greek. The secretary is a Serb.

The vali and other Turkish officials have been allowed to remain at large.

During the first few days of the occupation, the streets were inadequately patrolled and the state of public security left much to be desired. Several shops were pillaged and private houses broken into and their owners molested. This state of things culminated in an attempt by soldiers to forcibly enter the house of an Austrian subject in the main street, in consequence of which the consuls requested the authorities to place sentries by the houses of their subjects. This has been done and the patrols have been increased.

After the departure of the Turkish troops and before the arrival of the Serbs, the Christian inhabitants of Monastir plundered the barracks and military depots, stealing thousands of weapons.

One of the first acts of the Provisional Government has been to collect as many of these as possible. On the 22nd instant, notices were

issued that persons failing to give up any arms in their possession within twenty-four hours would be punished.

The Greeks have established a Provisional Government at Florina. M. Navroudís, lately Greek consul in Monastir, is acting as governor of the town.

When the Turks retreated on the 18th, Fethi Pasha,¹⁰ with the troops of the centre, proceeded by way of the Chemnitsa Valley towards Prevalets, and seems to have joined forces with the left under Javid Pasha, who had for four days been holding the positions guarding the retreat by the Resna road with tenacity.

Their forces retreated together by way of Malovista, striking the Resna-Gorcha road near the northern extremity of Lake Presba, whence they proceeded south.

The troops of the Turkish right wing and the reserves at Orizari and Sviyeti Nedyela retreated with Zekki and Karasaid Pasha to Florina, where they were probably joined on the 19th by the 17th division from Kailar and the Monastir redif division, which was retreating before two Greek divisions on the Vodhena-Ostrovo road.¹¹

From Florina this portion of the Turkish army is reported to have retired by way of Pisoderi and Biklista towards Gorcha, where it is believed to have been joined by the forces of Javid and Fethi Pasha. Nothing certain is known of the further movements of the Turks.

The independent cavalry division under Prince Arsène, advancing from Perlepé, east to the main road, and of the Cherna Karasou, which it crossed at Brod—too late to take the retreating Turks in flank—reached Florina on the 20th about the same time as the two Greek divisions.

The present distribution of the Greek troops in this district is as follows:—

The 4th and 6th divisions are at Florina.

The 3rd division and a cavalry regiment are at Castoria,

The 8th division is near Yanina.

The present distribution of the Servian troops in this district is as follows:—

¹⁰ The Servian military authorities state that the body of Fethi Pasha, dead of wounds, was found after the Turkish retreat near the village of Kazhani.

¹¹ The Monastir redif division, although it had no artillery, fought two actions to delay the Greek advance a little west of Ostrovo on the 17th and near Gornichevo on the 18th. The Turkish losses in these encounters are estimated by the Greeks at about 500 men killed.

"Morava 1st ban" at Kristopher (on the outskirts of Monastir).

"Morava 2nd ban" at Resna, Ochrida, and Struga.

"Danube 1st ban" at Monastir and Dobromir (8 miles north-east of Monastir).

"Drina 1st ban" at Klestina (a few miles north of Florina).

"Timok 2nd ban" at Orizari (a suburb of Monastir).

The independent cavalry division at Kenali (south-east of Monastir).

According to Servian official statements, the Turks lost about 6,000 killed and wounded, and 3,000 men captured round Monastir.¹² 1,500 Turks surrendered at Florina.¹³

The Serbs admit a loss of about 3,000.

Allowing for casualties, surrenders, and desertions, the strength of the Turks who fought at Monastir is now unlikely to exceed 30,000 men. Fifty-one guns were abandoned round Monastir. Javid Pasha saved all his artillery, but it amounts to only seven field-guns (captured from the Greeks) and a few mountain-guns. The troops who retreated under Zekki and Karasaid had only three batteries of field-guns.

The Christians captured by the Serbs are to be sent to their homes. The Moslems will probably go to Nish.

The arrival of a foreign army was received by the Christians of Monastir with every sign of joy, but the occupation is becoming daily less popular. There is scarcely a Serb in the kaza of Monastir, and the old questions of race and language will die hard. Initial prejudice is finding, too, a legitimate grievance in acts of pillage by Servian soldiers.¹⁴

The following table shows the ethnical distribution of the male population of the kazas of Monastir, Florina, Perlepe, Kirchevo, and Ochrida:¹⁵

¹² The fiercest fighting was on the Turkish left, where both sides had most of their casualties. Out of a total of about 3,000 casualties on the Servian side Javid Pasha was responsible for about 2,500.

¹³ The commander-in-chief of the western army was officially reported to have surrendered with them, but this is now denied.

¹⁴ It is fair to state that efforts are being made to prevent further incidents and that soldiers who have molested Moslems are being punished.

¹⁵ This table was drawn up in January last in view of the elections by the Committee of Union and Progress, which was then anxious to secure the election of a Serb deputy for Monastir. The figures are therefore likely to be as favourable as possible for the Serbs.

<i>Kaza.</i>	<i>Mos/ems</i>	<i>Bu/gars</i>	<i>Greeks</i>	<i>Serbs</i>	<i>Vlachs</i>	<i>Jews</i>
Monastir	14,235	29,215	17,324		1,461	2,176
Florina	8,243	8,393	13,106		386	2
Perlepe	8,448	17,500	2,386	5,500	95	
Kirchevo	8	6,399		5		
Ochrida	10,225	17,156	1,971	780	163	
Total	49,751	78,663	34,787	11,680	2,055	2,178

His Royal Highness Prince Constantine, who commands the Greek forces at Florina, visited Monastir on the 25th and was most enthusiastically received by the people. He returned to Florina on the 26th. He was accompanied by General Danglis, his chief-of-staff.

The latter, whilst here stated, that according to the original agreement between the allies, the new northern frontier of Greece would run from the mouth of the Skoumbi on the Adriatic following its course so far as possible, to Lin on the western shore of Lake Ochrida, and thence to Gopesh through Peshtani and Krushei. From Gopesh it would proceed by Lisolai to Rasinbey on the Cherna Karasou, and thence-marching so far as possible with the river-to Krivolak.

There is an impression in Servian military circles here that Monastir will not fall to the lot of the Serbs.

For many confirmatory details in connection with the foregoing despatch I am indebted to Major Thompson and Major Cunliffe-Owen, attached to the Servian and Greek forces respectively.

I have, &c.

C. A. Greig

[FO 371/1782]

No 147

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey – (Received February 26.)

Constantinople, February 22, 1913

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's vice-consul at Monastir, on the subject of the distress and relief work in that district.

I have sent a copy of this despatch to Cairo.

I have, &c.

Gerard Lowther

No 147.1

Vice-Consul Greig to Sir G. Lowther
(Confidential)

Monastir, February 4, 1913

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a note, the original of which was addressed by me to Lord Onslow, on the subject of the distress in this district.

The following is a brief statement (1) of funds actually available, and (2) of funds anticipated or promised for British relief work in this district:—

1. Funds actually available

	£
(a.) For the work of the Macedonian Relief Fund, represented by Miss MacQueen and Mr. Maynard—	
Granted by the Macedonian Relief Fund	950
(b.) For the work of His Majesty's vice-consulate	
Sent by the British Red Crescent	550
Given by the Macedonian Relief Fund	<u>100</u>
	1,600

2. Funds anticipated or promised	£
(a.) For the work of the Macedonian Relief Fund —	
Promised by the Macedonian Relief Fund	500
(b.) For the work of His Majesty's vice-consulate—	
Promised by the editor of the Indian paper "Comrade"	<u>400</u>
	900

A considerable part of the funds under the first heading have been spent.

Apart from these resources, a supply of much-needed clothing has been kindly promised by Lady Paget for the relief work of this vice-consulate, and Miss MacQueen has promise of a similar supply from other sources.

It is hoped that the hospital, of which Miss MacQueen has taken charge, may develop after the war into a permanent British establishment—a proposal to which the Servian authorities would appear to have no objection.

As stated in the accompanying note, the funds available and promised are utterly insufficient to deal with more than a fraction of the distress in the town of Monastir, leaving no margin for work outside.

The villages were intended to be the special province of Mr. Maynard, but, until and unless much larger sums are forthcoming, he will be limited to reporting on the situation, whereas relief in the form of food, clothing, and fuel is needed, at once. The position is appalling.

Supplies of flour, rice, and butter for distressed Moslems have been promised by Kamel Bey Teymour, who recently visited Monastir, and describes himself as "Head of the Fourth Egyptian Red Crescent Mission and of the High Relief Commission."

Kamel Bey is evidently quite under Austrian influence, to which, as will later be shown, he was probably won over before leaving Egypt.

He came to Monastir with the intention, above all, of promoting and supporting the comparatively insignificant relief work of the Austrian consulate, which has from the first deliberately subordinated charity to political propaganda, and endeavoured by the carefully organised campaign of its numerous agents to create amongst the Moslems an impression that all the relief work in this

district, our own included, is inspired by and due to Austrian pro-Moslem initiative.

He arrived here on the evening of the 30th January, and at once entered into relations with the Austrian consulate, where he seems to have been treated to such a flattering account of Austrian pro-Moslem endeavour and intentions that he thought it superfluous even to take stock of the parallel British, French, and American organisations, to which my colleague had obviously made a calculatedly passing allusion.

He intended to leave on the following morning without calling on anyone else. An accident prevented this. His application for a railway "pass" to Salonica had been sent in through the Austrian consulate, and consequently the Servian authorities were slow in making it out, and he missed his train.

Meanwhile his arrival had become the main topic of conversation in Monastir, and his intimacy with the Austrian consulate had provoked considerable comment. Consequently, with a whole day to spare, he felt obliged to call on me, which he did, accompanied by my Austrian colleague, who did not leave him a moment the whole day.

It transpired from his conversation that, he had very readily committed himself to promoting the Austrian relief work in a way admirably calculated to favour Austrian propaganda, and very detrimental to British prestige, by the following means:—

1. By arranging to send to the Austrian consul a supply of flour, rice, and butter, to be shared by him, apparently at his discretion, with any other deserving relief work.

2. By arranging to send to the Austrian consul a considerable sum of money, to be administered by an international committee, of which the Austrian consul, the mufti, and certain Moslem notables, would be the central figures, round which would be grouped the representatives of the other local relief organisations—British, French, and American.

As an outcome of our conversation it was arranged, as regards the first point, that a supply of provisions equal to that promised to the Austrian consulate should be sent to me directly—not through the medium of my Austrian colleague. As regards the second

point, I observed that, in the event of money being sent, it would in the circumstances be possible for me to become a member of the suggested committee only on the understanding that it should include, besides the mufti and Moslem notables, a representative of each of the other relief organisations in Monastir on exactly equal terms. I also suggested that the Moslem notables should be elected by lot from a list drawn up by the proposed *ex officio* members of the committee, hoping so to prevent in some degree the obvious evil of a panel selected solely by the Austrian consul.

Kamel consented vaguely to these proposals.

He did not visit the hospital being organised by Miss MacQueen.

In a previous paragraph it was stated that, to the best of my belief, Kamel was tampered with in Austrian interests before leaving Egypt. In this connection it is known with tolerable certainty that an endeavour was made through a M. Naus, a Belgian subject who lives in Cairo, and is the brother-in-law of my Austrian colleague, to induce the Egyptian Red Crescent to place at the disposal of the Austrian relief work in Monastir a sum of 50,000 fr., described as being ten days' interest on certain sums held by that organisation. The scheme, approved by a majority of the Egyptian Red Crescent Committee, or kindred body, appears to have nearly succeeded, but was at the last moment frustrated by the veto of an Egyptian prince (name unknown to me). This vice-consulate at the time received vague information that this plan was on foot, and on the 19th December I had sufficient information to justify my telegraphing to the Foreign Office that an Austrian attempt was being made to obtain funds from Egypt for Austrian relief work in Monastir.

All honest charitable efforts, British or foreign, being equally deserving of support, it will be a matter for regret if Austrian relief work, which is an instrument of propaganda, and of propaganda bitterly hostile to British interests, should be promoted to our detriment by funds which are the fruits of British administration in Egypt.

I have, &c.

C. A. Greig

p.s.—I would mention that the Austrian consul is doyen of the Monastir consular corps, and that Austrian consulates, where no German consulates exist, undertake the official protection of

Ottoman subjects at the present moment. But I venture to think that these are no reasons at all for the preferential treatment shown by the representative of the Egyptian Red Crescent.

C. A. G.

No 147.2

Enclosure 2 in No 1

Monastir, January 21, 1913

Note on Distress in District of Monastir

THE war has caused widespread distress in the Monastir district. It is believed that about 80 per cent of the villages inhabited exclusively by Moslems, and of the Moslem quarters of villages with a mixed population, have been sacked and partially or wholly destroyed, or both, throughout the kazas of Monastir, Kirchevo, Florina, Serfidjé, Kailar, Kozhani, Elassona, Grevena, Naselitch, and Kastoria. Considerable distress is also reported amongst both Christians and Moslems in the Gorcha and Dibra districts.

Subsequent enquiry will probably show that the irregular troops attached to the contending armies and parties of marauders from the neighbouring Christian villages were mainly responsible for the work of destruction.

The destruction has not been limited to Moslem villages. In the kaza of Florina the Christian population suffered severely, especially round Sorovitch, Banitsa, and Eksisou. But, so far as is known, enough villages have everywhere survived to harbour all the refugees. No place has been heard of where the Christian villagers are in any danger of starvation. In many cases they have actually been enriched by plunder from their Moslem neighbours.

In the early days of the campaign thousands of Moslems fled from the villages and took refuge at Salonica and Monastir. About 8,000 of the refugees in this town have been distributed amongst the few surviving Moslem villages, whose resources must be taxed to the utmost. The relatively accurate statistics now available show that some 12,000 remain—a larger number than was at first supposed. Of these some 4,500 are receiving relief from the following sources:—

1. The Red Crescent, which, through His Majesty's vice-consulate, is providing food for upwards of 800.¹⁹
2. The Macedonian Relief Fund, which, represented by Miss MacQueen, is providing food for a number to be brought up to about 1,000. Miss MacQueen has undertaken other work described in a subsequent paragraph.
3. The American Mission, which, with funds partly provided by Great Britain, is feeding about 800.
4. The French Sisters, who, with funds partly furnished by the French Government, are feeding about 1,000.
5. The Austrian consulate, which, with funds partly provided by the Austrian Government, is feeding about 800.

The remainder, in receipt of no permanent relief,²⁰ are in a pitiable condition. Many of them have sold the few effects they were able to carry away from their homes, including blankets and bedding, and are within sight of starvation. Numbers of the permanent inhabitants of the town are in nearly as bad a plight as the refugees. The crowded Moslem quarters, where even mosques are used as dwellings, are in a very unsanitary state, with which the municipal authorities are unable to deal for lack of funds and transport. The absence hitherto of any serious epidemic is probably due to the healthy climate. There have been cases of smallpox, but as vaccination is being carried out by the authorities on a large scale its rapid spread is not anticipated.

The funds generously provided are therefore, unhappily, very inadequate to meet the existing distress even in the town of Monastir, much less in the outlying districts, where the surviving Moslem villages must be crowded with refugees in much the same state.

The whole of the relief work in progress here as already described is organised on the assumption that its continuance will be necessary for only three or four months.

¹⁹ To this work the Macedonian Relief Fund has kindly contributed 100 l.

²⁰ The municipal authorities are feeding upwards of 2,000 persons, but their funds are only sufficient for a short period

It may be necessary much longer. If so, it is hoped that the necessary funds will be forthcoming. It would be painful to leave to their fate those now being helped.

It is not anticipated that many of the refugees still here will or safely could return to their ruined villages until a stable administration exists. Those who ultimately return will need temporary shelters, a free grant of personal and household effects, oxen and donkeys, agricultural implements, and seed, and, above all, the means of tiding over an initial period of penury. Emigration may partly solve the difficulty.

This year's crops are expected to give less than half the normal yield.

The work undertaken by Miss MacQueen has already been referred to. Apart from her other occupations, which include the distribution of food, visits to sick persons, and a vigilant look-out for disease, she is taking charge of thirty beds at the municipal hospital, which have courteously been placed at her disposal by the Servian authorities.

The present need in the Monastir district is probably far greater than in 1903 and 1904, when vastly larger sums were devoted to its relief.

C. A. Greig

[FO 294/51]

No 31

(Confidential)

H. B. M. Vice-Consulate

Monastir

His Excellency

Rt. Hon. Sir Gerard A. Lowther, GCMG, CB

etc., etc., etc.

H. B. M. Ambassador Extraordinary

Constantinople

May 25th, 1913

Sir,

I have the honour to communicate to Your Excellency the following information regarding the position of the Bulgarian population in the portions of this district occupied respectively by the Serbs and by the Greeks.

The Position in the Serbian Districts

Herewith is enclosed (see Enclosure No 1) a communication received from the Bulgarian Archbishop of Monastir describing cases of oppressive treatment to which the Bulgarian element is stated to have been subjected by the Servian Authorities.

To this communication, which is very long and redundant, I have attached an abbreviated translation giving the essential facts, comment or explanation being added where possible (see Enclosure No 2).

Many of the details I am unable either to confirm or deny. But taken as a whole and with due allowance for exaggeration, most of the incidents described are in keeping with the purpose of Servian policy towards the non-Serb Christian communities in the occupied districts. That purpose is the extinction of national feeling by undermining its strongest pillars - Churches, Monasteries, Schools. In its entirety this policy is at present applied to the Bulgarian element only. It is most pronounced in the Dibra, Krchevo, Krushevo and Perlepé districts, which have long been the clashing-point of Servian and Bulgarian propaganda in this region.

The chief incidents complained of are as follows. -

(1) Churches and monasteries are stated in certain cases to have been closed or seized. The following instances are given. -

- (a) The forcible closing of the Exarchist Churches at Lazaropole and Zernovitsa (Dibra).
- (b) The expulsion of the Exarchist Priest from the Church at Tresanché (Dibra), where a Servian Priest appears to be officiating in his stead.
- (c) The expulsion of the Exarchist caretaker and occupant of the Monastery of Krchevo and its seizure by the Servian ecclesiastical authorities.

(2) The forcible subjection of the Exarchist population to the Servian hierarchy, of which the following instances are given. -

- (a) The Exarchist Archmandrite of Galichnik (Dibra) forbidden to officiate for refusing to recognize the Servian Bishop of Dibra instead of the Bulgarian Archbishop.
- (b) The Exarchist inhabitants of Lazaropole and Zernovitsa ordered by the Dibra Prefecture to recognize the Servian instead of the Bulgarian spiritual authorities. Fourteen persons of Lazaropole imprisoned for refusing.

(3) Suppression of the Bulgarian language, of which the following instances are given. -

- (a) Mutilation by the Authorities of inscriptions in Bulgarian in the Church of Lazaropole.
- (b) Mutilation by unknown persons of an inscription on the outside wall of the Bulgarian Church of Sviyeti Nedyela (Monastir).
- (c) Flogging of a Bulgarian inn-keeper for having a sign-board worded in Bulgarian.

(4) Forced labour, e.g. -

The Bulgarian inhabitants of Lazaropole compelled to repair the road between Dibra and Zernovitsa.

(5) Unfair impositions, of which the following ones are given. -

- (a) Heavy road-tax exacted from the inhabitants of Lazaropole and neighbouring villages (Dibra).
- (b) Special tribute imposed on Lazaropole.

(6) General persecution and abuse of authority. The following instances are given. -

- (a) Bulgarians prevented from travelling.
- (b) Bulgarian newspapers suppressed.
- (c) Viciously conducted searches for hidden arms.
- (d) Violent punishment - such as flogging accompanied by the exaction of bribes, exorbitant fines, imprisonment, or threats of death - inflicted on persons suspected of being agents of propaganda.
- (e) The arrest and subsequent disappearance of a Bulgarian schoolmaster and three other Bulgarians of Mavrovo (Gostivar).

Since receipt of the foregoing information from the Bulgarian Archbishop of Monastir, the following incidents have occurred. -

- (a) On the 9th instant, a Servian soldier proceeding from Ressa towards Monastir was attacked and wounded by unknown persons near Gijavat.
- (b) On the 10th instant, another soldier was seized on the same road near Tsapari (ten miles N. by W. of Monastir) by unknown persons, one of whom seems to have shot him in the hand with the remark - "I will only wound you, but go to your Officer and say that this is a sign that the Bulgars will not submit to Servian government."

The Servian Authorities attached great importance to these incidents, in consequences of which a Company of soldiers was sent to Monastir. It is rumoured that some of these have been quietly put out of the way, but this is not yet confirmed. It seems certain that several inhabitants of the village, who were not at the time arrested, have since vanished; but it is quite possible they have taken to the hills. the Bulgarian Archbishop tells me that several Bulgarians of the two villages were beaten by the soldiers. Upwards of 300 rifles are believed to have been discovered at Tsapari.

- (c) On the 16th instant towards midnight, a Bulgarian family names Penjerkef (alias Stamboulief) consisting of husband, wife, and a son aged eight, were mysteriously murdered in their home, of which they were the only inmates, in one of the most respectable quarters of Monastir. They

were stabbed to death. There is at present no clue as to the authors of the crime, but there is a general tendency amongst the local population to attribute it to Servian official agents. It is argued that it occurred significantly soon after the Gijavat and Tsapari incidents, that the Authorities had been talking openly of making an example; that the victims were admirably chosen with a view to impressing other propaganda agents, for Perjerkef was once Treasurer of the local Bulgarian Committee. It is also asked how the murderers, one of whom is known to have been wounded from bloodstains tracked along a neighbouring street, can have passed through the town so late without being challenged by any of the numerous sentries; and why one of the bodies, the father's, lay exposed to the full view of passers-by for some hours after its discovery on the balcony of the house.

(d) On the 23rd instant, the following incidents occurred. -

1. A notice was found on the door of a house in Monastir occupied by a Bulgarian family names Sekulof demanding payment to the Bulgarian Committee of a large sum of money.
2. A similar notice was found on the door of another Bulgarian house addressed to one Nikola Kurchief.

Both of these families have had intimate relations with the Committee in the past.

The local Bulgarians accuse the Servian Authorities of forging these notices which are expected to serve on a future occasion as a pretext for attacking other suspected persons.

The Position in the Greek Districts

The following information regarding the treatment of the Bulgarian element by the Greek Authorities has been received from the Exarchist Archbishop of Monastir. -

(1) Wholesale arrests are stated to have been made amongst the Bulgarians, more especially in the Castoria district, the arrested persons being generally well-to-do members of the Community - particularly Priests, Schoolmasters and Ex-Comitajis. They are usually apprehended on mere suspicion or on a vague charge

of carrying on propaganda to the detriment of orthodoxy and hellenism. The following instances are quoted. -

- (a) Traico Ristef of Jelevo (Castoria), aged 60, arrested and sent to Salonica on a charge of spreading the report that a Bulgarian occupation of the district is imminent.
- (b) The Bulgarian schoolmaster of Roulia (Castoria) imprisoned for the discovery in his house of notes on outrages alleged to have been committed by the Greek and Turkish troops.

(2) Exarchist Priests who were originally Patriarchists are stated to have been forbidden to officiate in Slav. This is said to have been the case at Ochtime, Roulia, and Trnovo (Castoria).

(3) Searches in private houses for hidden weapons are stated to be frequent and to be often used as an opportunity for robbery by the official agents employed.

From other sources, news has been received of the following incidents in the Greek districts. -

(1) Mito Petre, a Bulgarian of Monastir who has been somewhat prominently concerned in propaganda, was arrested at Florina on the 12th instant and sent to Karaferia charged with being a carrier of seditious correspondence. Letters found in his possession seem to have contained invitations to prominent Bulgars of Florina and Castoria to attend a propaganda Congress at Monastir.

(2) On the 12th instant or thereabouts, 17 Bulgars were arrested near Zelenitch on a charge of murdering a Khoja of Lubetino (Florina). They are reported to have been sent to Karaferia.

(3) About the 1st instant, a Bulgarian Priest from Kirk-Kilissé was arrested at Armensko charged with being the carrier of seditious correspondence. He is reported to have been sent to Salonica with six other Bulgars of Armensko (Florina).

(4) Shakir Effendi, a notable of Selenitsa, was recently arrested on a similar charge.

General Remarks

Both the Servian and Greek Authorities in this district fully believe in the existence of a Bulgarian propaganda supported from without, which means an organization prepared to strike in the event of war between the Allies. The symptoms seem to justify this belief. The support and countenance from without are probably Bulgarian and Austrian. There is danger of the local authorities being carried away by their suspicions and resorting to excessive measures of suppression likely to create an intolerable position and defeat their own purpose. The whole district is probably better stocked with concealed arms and ammunition than ever before.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble Servant,
C. A. Greig

No 31.1

Enclosure of Mr Greig's despatch No 31 of May 25th, 1913

Extract of Enclosure No 1 with observations in brackets

Ill-Treatment of Bulgarians of the Monastir District by the Serbs in Occupation

1. On March 27th, two Bulgarian flags were removed by Servian soldiers from the roof of the Bulgarian School at Monastir, which is at present used as Barracks, and torn up.

(I have no information about this.)

2. On March 30th, a Bulgarian mechanic of Struga named Kavaef was arrested and brought before the Commandant, who had him placed beside a newly-dug grave and asked him whether he had ever been a Comitaji. On replying in the negative, he was told that the grave was for him. He was then thrown down and beaten till he became unconscious. He was ultimately released after being told that the rest of the Bulgars can expect the same fate. The local doctor, a Turk, was forbidden to dress his wounds.

(I have no information about this.)

3. The Church of Sviyeti Nedyela (Monastir) bears on its wall the inscription "Bulgarian Church of Sviyeti Nedyela". During the night of March 30th, the word "Bulgarian" was effaced by unknown persons. The Authorities undertook to discover and punish the guilty persons, but did nothing.

(This is true.)

4. On April 8th, the Authorities at Monastir searched, with a view to discovering hidden arms, the houses and shops of the brothers Rusamarof, of the brothers Spanakof, and of Boris Gavazof. On the premises of the first-named were found portions of uniforms which had been cast off by Turkish soldiers when Monastir was evacuated and afterwards torn up for household use. On the premises of the second-named was found a saddle. On the premises of the third-named was found a bayonet of a Mauser rifle. These innocent objects were confiscated and in each case a fine of 100 francs was inflicted. The Spanakofs were in a position to prove that the saddle had been legitimately purchased, but that was not taken into account.

(This is believed to be substantially true.)

5. On March 7th, a Bulgarian ex-Comitaji of Opticharé (Monastir) named Petre Pavlof was arrested for being in possession of a Turkish rifle. He was released on March 30th after giving the headman of the district a bribe of 10 liras. During his detention, he was beaten every day and his health is impaired. He had been employed as a watchman and therefore needed a rifle.

(I have no information about this.)

6. With the Petre Pavlos mentioned in the preceding paragraph was arrested a Khoja of Ostrets (Monastir) who was accused of knowing of a place where arms were hidden. He was tortured to reveal it. After being nearly beaten to death, he paid a bribe of 300 francs and was released.

(I have no information about this. Ostrets, which is an Albanian village, has always been a den of thieves.)

7. Stoiché Dishkof, a Bulgarian of Karaman (Monastir), was arrested on a charge of having a rifle. Although he had no such thing, he paid a bribe of 500 dinars to escape torture and imprisonment.

(I have no information about this.)

8. Towards the end of March, Traiko Tsvetkof, a Bulgarian of Perlepé, was fined 40 dinars for reading the Bulgarian newspaper "Vecherna Pochta".

(I have no information about this case. But all Bulgarian newspapers are forbidden except the "Balkan".)

9. On April 9th, Simeon Michaelof, a Bulgarian schoolmaster of Istib, started on a journey to Salonica after duly obtaining the necessary official pass. On reaching the railway-station, he was searched, and an innocent letter from the Archbishop of the Exarchist Authorities at Sofia was found in his possession. For this he was beaten and imprisoned 15 days.

(I have no information about this.)

10. On April 15th, a Bulgarian named Georghi Christof, who owns the "Traders' Inn" at Monastir, was savagely flogged by a Private of the 18th Regiment named Milan Michaelof (sic) for not having had the inscription on the sign-board of his inn translated into Serb. He was further accused of carrying letters for the Bulgarian Committee between Monastir and Ochrida and of spreading a report that the Bulgarian Army will shortly occupy Monastir.

(I am unable to confirm this.)

11. The Serbo-Greek entente was celebrated in Monastir at Easter by feasting, drinking and cries of "Long live Serbia and Greece!", "Down with Bulgaria!"

(The Bulgarians have themselves held aloof since the occupation of Monastir by the Serbs from all festivities in common with the Serbs and Greeks. At Easter, feeling was very strong against the Bulgarians, but I am unable to obtain any confirmation of the demonstrations alleged.)

12. (a) On January 13th, a Servian Officer from Dibra arrived at Lazaropole, called together the Bulgarian Schoolmasters, notables, and Priests, and ordered them to recognize in future none but the Servian spiritual authorities, failing which they would be shot.

(I have been unable to obtain any information about this.)

(b) On January 16th, Santi Popof, the chief Bulgarian Schoolmaster of Lazaropole, was bound and carried to Dibra, charged

with inciting the inhabitants not to obey the order to recognise the Servian instead of the Exarchist ecclesiastical authorities.

(I have no information about this.)

(c) On January 18th, the Authorities sent to Zernovitsa a written order to refer to Bishop Varnava of Dibra in all ecclesiastical matters. The same day, the Bulgarian Priest of the village, Daniel Kostof, was assaulted whilst officiating in Church by a Serboman named Vasil Gyorghief (sic), who snatched the chalice from his hands asking him why he recognized Kozma and not Varnava.

(I have no information about this incident. Kozma is the Exarchist Archbishop of Krchevo and Varnava is the Servian Bishop of Dibra.)

(d) On January 23rd, fourteen villagers of Lazaropole were arrested and brought before the Prefect of Dibra for refusing to sign an undertaking to recognize the Servian spiritual supremacy. As they persisted in their refusal, they were imprisoned for five days.

(I have no information about this incident.)

(e) On March 2nd, Elia Efremof and 14 other Bulgars of Zernovitsa were summoned before the Authorities, who asked them whether they realized that in future they must recognize the Servian spiritual supremacy and abstain from Bulgarian propaganda. They replied that they could not renounce their own ecclesiastical authorities, but that they had never taken part in any propaganda. Later they were dismissed by an Official with the words - "You can go and I will give you the celebration out of my 'kurtsa' (sic)".

(I have no information about this incident.)

(f) On March 3rd, the Bulgarian Priests and Schoolmasters of Lazaropole were summoned before the Authorities of Zernovitsa where a detailed enquiry was made as to their training, ordination, stipends, etc. One old Schoolmaster stated that he received 64 liras a year, whereupon an Official remarked - "You are well paid to become Bulgarian. You are better paid than Passitch."

(g) On January 18th, the Bulgarian Church at Lazaropole was forcibly closed. The Priests were previously told they might continue to officiate if they did so in the name of Varnava. They

refused. At Tresanché, too, the Bulgarian Priest has been driven from his Church where a Servian Priest now officiates.

(I have no information about this.)

(h) On March 18th, the Bulgarian monastery at Krchevo was seized by the Servian Authorities, who evicted the caretaker and other persons.

(This is believed to be true.)

(i) The Bulgarian Archmandrite of Galichnik (Dibra), Pavel Theodosief, has been repeatedly urged by the Servian Bishop Varnava and by the Authorities at Zernovitsa to renounce the Exarch. They offered him 120 liras a year and 5 years' stipend in advance, but he refused. Since then, he has been confined to his house.

(I have no information about this.)

(j) On March 18th, all the men of Lazaropole of 15 years and more were ordered to repair the road between Dibra and Zernovitsa. The Official who gave the order said - "Your mothers were Bulgars and you shall work till you squeal."

(I have no information about this.)

(k) On March 19th, the Mayor of Lazaropole read an order from the Prefect that the Bulgarian word-terminations must be removed within 24 hours from inscriptions on the icons in the village Church. This order was carried out by the Servian Schoolmaster.

(I have no information about this.)

(l) On March 20th, the Authorities at Zernovitsa imposed on the Bulgarian villages of the district a special road-tax of 24 francs for every male over fifteen years old. Several families were called upon to pay this tax for men who are away serving as volunteers in the Bulgarian armies. They presented a petition for exemption to the chief Official of Zernovitsa who roughly refused their request. The village of Lazaropole alone has 247 men in the Bulgarian forces.

(I have no information about this, but it is believed that the most monstrous levies are made by the rural communal Officials apparently on their own account. Attempts have been made in many places to wring all sorts of illegal gain out of ruined Moslems returning to burnt-out villages. This Vice-Consulate has frequently

brought such cases to the notice of the local Authorities with the result that the attempt has not been persisted in, but the dishonest Officials are never punished.)

(m) On March 22nd, the Authorities of Lazaropole demanded of the inhabitants a sum of 11,432 francs. This tribute was collected by the harshest of methods, the most necessary household effects being confiscated in the case of persons unable to pay.

(I have no information about this.)

(n) On March 24th, Angel Stoikof and Sofroni Nikof of Gari applied to the Authorities for permission to find substitutes instead of working personally on the road. The Mayor, who had a grudge against them, reported to the Prefect that they had refused to work. They received 25 lashes each.

(I have no information about this.)

(o) On March 26th, Efstatia Markof and Ivan Panef, Bulgarian Schoolmasters of Lazaropole, were questioned by the authorities as to the number of their pupils and the financial support given by the villages to the Schools. They were also asked how long the village had acknowledged the Exarch. Markof replied - "forty-one years." Panef, not knowing these details, was unable to offer any information. For that reason he has been in prison ever since.

(I have no information about this.)

(p) On March 25th, the Priests, deacons and Elders of Lazaropole were called upon to show the Church accounts to the Authorities.

(q) On March 23rd, the Bulgarian Schoolmaster and three other Bulgars of Mavrova (Gostivar) were called before the Authorities. Since then, nothing more has been heard of them. To the enquiries of their friends, the Authorities replied - "Possibly they have been killed. These are abnormal times and there are Albanians about." -

(I have no information about this. In my depatch No 1 of January 23rd, the disappearance was reported of another Bulgarian Schoolmaster named Athanas Lutvief of Perlepé.)

(r) On March 10th, Stevan Dimitrof, the Bulgarian Priest of Sredno-Eghri (Monastir) was accused by the Authorities at Monastir

of compelling Patriarchists of the same village to attend the Exarchist Church. The Prefect used the most objectionable language to him, called him a 'Comitaji', and cursed his religion. In the ante-room of the Prefect's office he was struck in the face by Police Officials who warned him not to talk of what had happened on penalty of death. At the same time, Athanas Dimitrof, Mayor of Sredno-Eghri, was charged with the same offence. He, too, on penalty of death was warned not to tell anyone what had happened. As a matter of fact, neither of them had interfered with the Patriarchists.

(I have no information about this.)

(s) On April 21st, the Prefect of Monastir sent for all the Municipal employes of the neighbourhood. They were admitted one by one into his presence and warned not to harbour any outlawed persons and to give notice should any go to their villages. At the same time, the Bulgarian Priest of Kukerechani, Vasil Kolef, was sent for and struck in the face by the Prefect himself for alleged neglect of four Servian families in his parish. He was warned that a repetition of the offence would involve the penalty of death. He was taunted with being a Bulgarian priest and a Comitaji. Another Bulgarian, Secula Georgief, recently employed as a Municipal Official at Mogila (Monastir), was struck so fiercely by the Prefect that a tooth was knocked out. All these persons were warned on penalty of death not to visit the Bulgarian Archbishop or complain of what had happened. They were dismissed with the words - "If we remain here, you will all become Serbs. If we go, you can become Turks or Gipsies if you like." The Prefect added - "If I remain here, I will make you all rich," which presumably means that he will skin them all and make them beggars (sic.).

(I am unable to confirm this.)

(t) News has been received from Perlepé that Bulgarian ex-Comitajis are being unjustifiably arrested. At Easter, the inhabitants of Perlepé were ordered to decorate their houses with Servian flags. Non-compliance was punished by a fine of 3 francs.

(I am informed that a large number of Bulgarians have of late been arrested on suspicion at Perlepé. About the other statement I have no information. As the military governor of the town is an extreme chauvinist, it is not at all improbable.)

[FO 371/1827]

No 36

(Confidential)

Vice-Consul Greig to Sir G. Lowther.—

(Received at Foreign Office June 24)

Monastir, June 14, 1913

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report on current events in this district as follows:—

Albanian Matters

There have been further signs of the activity of Servian propaganda in Albania, in connection with which Fehim Bey Zavalani is about to undertake another journey, passing through Dibra, the Mat region, Kroia, Tirana, Durazzo, and Elbassan.

M. Balutchitch, whose previous movements were reported in my despatch No 33 of the 30th May, has again been here after spending a few days in Bucharest. The purpose of his visit to this town was to confer with Fehim Bey. He left on the 12th instant for Salonica, and his destination is believed to be Durazzo, and perhaps Berat.

Amongst the objects of these journeys — apart from the general purpose of promoting a Serbo-Albanian Entente and incidentally combatting Austrian, Italian, and Bulgarian intrigues—are, I believe, the following:—

To reconcile Essad Pasha with the authorities at Valona (and perhaps to obtain his inclusion in the Cabinet as Minister of War, in which case it will be interesting to see what employment is reserved for Mehmed Pasha Kalkandelen).

To restrain the growing rivalry between the authorities at Valona, Elbassan, Pekinj, and Berat on the one hand, and Tirana, Kavaja, and Durazzo on the other.

Another aim is attributed to them by my Austrian colleague, namely, to obtain support for the candidature of a member of the Servian Royal family as Prince or Governor of Albania.

From the representative in Monastir of the Servian Ministry of Foreign Affairs I learn that, if such a candidature is put forward, it would probably be in the person of Prince George.

It is the intention of the Serbs to appoint consuls as soon as possible in the Albanian centres, to enhance the importance of Elbassan, and to remove from their path by purchase or assassination any uncompromising foreign agents. Ismail Kemal and Dervish Khima have been indicated to me as specially marked out for Servian vengeance.

Monastir, if in Servian hands, will be a most natural centre for carrying on much of this propaganda, and the possession of the great marketing centres of Djakova, Prizrend, Kalkandelen, and Dibra will subject the population and landowners of half Northern Albania, including valuable agricultural regions, to Servian good-will as completely as Hellenic ownership of Gorcha would place extensive Albanian districts in the south at the mercy of Greece.

There is something peculiarly Albanian in the position of Fehim Bey Zavalani, who ranks among the leading Nationalists, suffered imprisonment by the Turks for upholding with considerable courage and tenacity the very cause whose secrets he was almost certainly paid all the time to betray to Austria, and has now become an instrument to Servian ends. In his own words he is at present "on good terms with the Serbs, and also with the Bulgars, Austrians, Italians, and Greeks, and has really nothing at heart except the independence of his country."

On the 12th instant he called at this vice-consulate and asked me to inform His Majesty's Government that the Albanians of Macedonia desire, through him, to express their wish for British protection.

Whilst undertaking to communicate his statement to my superintending authorities, I held out no hope of a possibility of its being considered.

The following information has been received as to the distribution of the Albanian gendarmerie:

	Men
Elbassan, where Akif Pasha is mutessarif	250
Berat, where Aziz Pasha Virion is mutessarif	100
Durazzo, where Hamid Bey Toptan is mutessarif	200
Kavaja, where Shabsivar Bey is kaimakam	100
Pekinj, where Demir Pasha is kaimakam	100
Shaiak, where 'Umr Bey is kaimakam	100
Kroia, where 'Umr Agha is kaluakam	100
Tirana, where Refik Bey Toptan is kaimakam	100

The Prefect of Monastir informs me that several Christian families from the villages of Hosheshtë, Nitsa, and Vefché, in the Mokra district, which is just outside the Servian limit of occupation west of Lake Ochrida, having been robbed or threatened by bands of Moslem brigands, have taken refuge at Ochrida and applied to him for Servian protection.

The position of isolated Christian communities in Albania is undeniably precarious as long as no stable administration exists, but the present incidents, which are a source of obvious satisfaction to the Servian authorities, are not, in my opinion, of much importance, especially as there has been no loss of life so far as is known.

It is also reported that a body of gendarmes sent from Elbassan to arrest a Moslem brigand, of Grabova, in the Vrchan region (half-way between Elbassan and Gorcha) has met with a reverse, losing an officer and two men.

The Bulgars and Moslems

The hostility of the Bulgarian element continues to be of a passive order, but it is developing on significant lines in spite of repressive measures. Bands are reported to be forming in Ochrida and Perlepé districts, and several ex-comitajis of this town are believed to have taken to the hills.

The Serbs are retaliating by the formation of a body of unmounted gendarmes, recruited locally, and described as "Frontier Gendarmerie" consisting mainly of Moslems. The number of men aimed at is 4,000, to be formed into four battalions.

It is understood that Servian officers will be attached to them, and that use will be made of available sergeants and corporals formerly in the Ottoman gendarmerie. The rate of pay, exclusive of subsistence allowance, will be as follows

	Fr.
Privates	20 a-month
Corporals	28 a-month
Officers	[?]

Up to the present about 1,500 men are believed to have been enrolled, mainly from Ochrida, Struga, and Ressna.

Although chiefly of a Moslem character, the force includes a few Bulgars. But this extraordinary ill-timed attempt to enrol Exarchists has met with little success, and is a further source of friction. Two vil-

lages in the Perlepé region—Coniari and Kadinosele—went so far as to inform the authorities that nothing would induce them to provide volunteers for service against their brothers in the Bulgarian army. Consequently both places have been visited with wholesale arrests.

There is reason to believe that even in the Moslem villages the call for gendarmerie recruits has not everywhere met with a very willing response. A deputation of Moslems from Kanatlartsi, a hamlet near Perlepé, has appeared at this vice-consulate to complain that one-fourth of their men have been “forcibly” enrolled.

Searches for arms and seditious correspondence are being carried out in Bulgarian houses throughout the district as energetically as ever. At Ochrida, one Yaki Tchaoulef, father of the Voivode Petrush Tchaoulef, has been arrested owing to the discovery in his house of four live bombs and other weapons. The bombs, however, although in good condition, are said not to be of very recent manufacture.

The Bulgarian Archbishop of Monastir tells me that the wholesale arrest and deportation of Exarchists in the Greek districts continues. From other sources I learn that bands are forming in the Castoria district.

A certain coldness has recently been noticed between the Austrian consulate and the Bulgarian Archbishop. It is ascribed to the refusal of the latter to push Exarchist propaganda to the lengths advocated by the former.

Austrian endeavours, having failed to associate the Moslems with the Bulgarian cause, are now directed towards fostering a desire amongst the local population for autonomy. Considerable success has been achieved amongst the Moslems in that direction.

Almost any Moslem of Monastir, if asked what government he desires, will reply: “Autonomy, and, failing that, the Serbs.” Serbia, Turkey, and Romania.

There have been some local reflections of the negotiations of the Servian Government with Roumania and Turkey.

M. Kirkovitch, a former inspector of schools at Monastir, has returned to this town after visiting Bucharest and Constantinople, where he has been employed on a special mission.

At Constantinople his dealings seem to have been mainly with Eyyoub Sabri Bey, Secretary-General of the Committee of Union and Progress. The exact nature of the negotiations has not been disclosed, but there is apparent satisfaction at their result in official circles.

Somewhat in confirmation of this, my Roumanian colleague, whose relations with the Servian authorities has recently undergone a most pronounced improvement, tells me that his Government, whilst maintaining good relations with Bulgaria, is bent on a closer understanding with Servia and the Triple Entente, and that it recognises the danger of a too Austrophil policy, which may end by leaving it at the mercy of its southern neighbour or of a group of Slav States.

Various Items of Information

(a.) The Birthday of His Majesty the King

The reception held at this vice-consulate on the 3rd instant was attended, amongst others, by the Consular Corps, the principal Servian officials, the Orthodox and Exarchist Archbishops, the Mufti, the Hodjas of the chief Mosques, the Sheikh of the Rifai "Tekyé," and by representatives of the most important Moslem families. Delegations from the Moslem villages of Ramna, Lera, Dolentsi, and Kadjan, where relief has recently been distributed, were also present.

(b.) Military Information

No further information has been obtainable as to the movements of the troops of the 1st Morava Division, which recently left Monastir for Kuprilu, except that the 2nd regiment and the 16th regiment are east of the Vardar.

It is believed that a IIIrd Ban regiment will soon arrive here.

(c.) Administrative Measures

There has been a very necessary all-round dismissal of communal officials, mainly Bulgars, in the Struga, Ochrida, Resna, and Gijavat districts, where they were preying outrageously on the Moslems. They have been replaced mainly by Moslem Albanians and some Serbs.

I have, &c.

C. A. Greig

RETRANSCRIPTIONS

[FO 424/236]

No 311

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey. -(Received December 14)

Constantinople, December 8, 1912

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose herewith copies of four despatches which I have lately received from His Majesty's vice-consul at Monastir, containing a survey, which may also be of some interest to the War Office, of the military operations which culminated in the fall of Monastir on the 19th November.

I have addressed a despatch to Mr. Greig, approving his conduct in these very difficult circumstances.

I have, &c.

Gerard Lowther

No 311.1

Enclosure 1 in No 311

(Confidential)

Vice-Consul Greig to Sir G. Lowther

Monastir, October 29, 1912

Sir,

I have the honour to communicate to your Excellency the following information:

October 26.- Three hundred and thirteen soldiers (Anatolians or Albanian volunteers) and five officers sent from Monastir to Karaferia.

Sixty Albanian volunteers, fifteen waggons of provisions, two waggons of tents, and one waggon of ammunition sent from Monastir to Sorovitch.

October 27.- One thousand three hundred Albanian volunteers arrived at Monastir (1,000 from Dibra, under Mersim Dema, 200 from Ochrida, under Eyyoub Sabri, and 100 from Resna, under Niazi).

About 550 miscellaneous survivors of Kumanovo, 150 wounded soldiers, 17 waggons of damaged artillery, 13 waggonloads of damaged military vehicles, 20 waggonloads of oxen, and 12 waggonloads of provisions arrived at Monastir from Salonica.

October 28.-One thousand five hundred Malissores, of Dibra, arrived here under Khairreddin Bey Pustina, and 300 under Shakir Bey, of Dibra.

Nine hundred and twenty Albanian volunteers, with Mersim Dema, Eyyoub Sabri, and Niazi Bey, armed with Martinis and without uniforms, left Monastir for Sorovitch. (Niazi Bey since gone to Neveska, to the south of Florina, where he will, no doubt, be exposed to less danger than at Kailar or Verria, with the alleged intention of dealing with the Greek bands!)

Eighteen waggonloads of damaged artillery arrived here from Salonica.

October 29.-Two thousand one hundred miscellaneous survivors of Kumanovo, with six officers and three waggonloads of damaged military vehicles, arrived here from Salonica.

Besides about 2,000 Albanian irregulars, without uniforms and armed with Martinis, there are at present in Monastir about 3,000 Elbassan and Anatolian reservists.

The survivors of Kumanovo who have arrived here via Salonica since the 27th October number about 6 officers and 2,700 men: of whom 150 were wounded. The spirit of officers and men seems to be utterly broken. Many have deserted and are in hiding.

Other troops of the VIth Army Corps who took part in the Kumanovo operations have arrived at Perlepé by way of Kuprilu. Reports as to their numbers vary between 10,000 and 15,000. They are said to have about twenty guns belonging to various batteries and regiments; but, according to all accounts, ammunition is scarce.

As reported in my telegram No 59, the commander of the Monastir redif division, Mehmet Ali Bey (now Mehmet Ali Pasha), who returned to Monastir on the 27th instant from Kuprilu, stated that the Monastir redif division suffered severely at Kumanovo, and that the Monastir, Ochrida, Resna, Florina, and Kirchevo battalions were annihilated. He also reported the almost total loss of the artillery of the 17th and 18th divisions.

The truth seems to be that the Albanian redifs bolted, causing a panic, and that the number of killed was comparatively small. The highest estimate that has been quoted to me of the losses at Kumanovo by the VIth Army Corps was 3,000 killed.

I have not been able to satisfactorily test Mehmet Ali Pasha's statement regarding the artillery of the 18th division, but what he said of the 17th division is probably true.

It is, however, to be observed that since the 26th instant thirty-eight waggonloads of damaged artillery have arrived here from Salonica; it is unknown to what extent these may have contributed to the artillery reported to be at present at or in the neighbourhood of Perlepé.

As reported in my telegram No 26, the commander-in-chief of the western army, Ali Riza Pasha and his staff arrived here on the 26th instant from Salonica. They remain here.

The Albanian volunteers, whose arrival here was reported in a previous paragraph, had no rifles of their own; or, if they have any, preferred not to bring them to Monastir.

The authorities offered them old-pattern Mausers (with a magazine for nine cartridges), which they refused. After clamouring for rifles of the newest pattern, the stock of which is completely exhausted, they were induced to accept Martinis.

It is generally believed that the sole abject of these irregulars is to obtain rifles, and that the majority of them will desert at the first opportunity. Meanwhile, their presence in Monastir in considerable numbers and very little under control is a source of uneasiness to both Christians and Moslems.

So far as can be ascertained from the little reliable news obtainable, the Greek column from Larissa, advancing by way of Ellasona, and the column from

Trikala, marching by way of Kalabaka-Velemisti-Dizkata, united on the 23rd instant near Serfidjé, which they occupied without opposition; an inferior Turkish force, defeated with serious loss at Mount Meluna, and again in the Sarandoporon Pass, retiring in great disorder towards Karadzalar (north-east of Kozhani), where it is believed to have been reinforced by nine battalions of Castamouni redifs and two batteries of field-guns dispatched from Karaferia.¹

p. 21

From Sarandoporon to Karadzalar the progress of the Turks seems to have been one continuous flight. The commandant at Kozhani made a tardy and ill-timed attempt to reinforce the retreating Turks and to enable them to make a stand at Serfidjé by dispatching a force of Dibra redifs and two batteries of field-guns, with orders to occupy the high land of Demir Kapu, commanding the junction of the Ellassona and Diskata roads a little south-west of Serfidjé. But this reinforcement, on reaching the Bistritsa bridge, ascertained that the town was already evacuated and withdrew.

On the 26th, a Greek force from Serfidjé of unknown strength, but said to include a cavalry brigade, entered Kozhani unopposed, after dispersing a Dibra redif battalion encountered on the way. The Turks retired to the heights west of the Kozhani-Kailar road.

Since the occupation of Serfidjé, the movements of the main body of Greeks has been a matter of speculation. When last heard of it was on the Inje Karasou, between Serfidjé and Karaferia, as reported in my telegram No 61.

Another Greek column is reported to have occupied Grevena on the 22nd, and more recently Lapsista (Naselitch) and Satista. But details are lacking, and

¹ The united strength of the Larissa and Trikala columns, of which the former was the larger, is believed here to have been about 70,000 men. Both sides lost heavily in the Sarandoporon Pass. The losses of the Gorcha, Castoria, and Starovo battalions were especially heavy. Twenty-one out of a total of twenty-four guns are said to have fallen into the hands of the Greeks. The Turks attribute their defeat to the superior numbers of their opponents, to their inferiority in artillery, to shortage of machine-gun ammunition, and to panic caused by the flight of large numbers of Albanians. After the evacuation of Serfidjé and before its complete occupation by the Greeks, a fight seems to have taken place in the town between Christians and Moslems, and a considerable number of persons are believed to have been killed and wounded on both sides. It is understood that several Christian prisoners were killed. In an encounter with the Trikala column at Dizkata the Naselitch redif battalion is reported to have been decimated.

there is an inclination to suppose that these places have merely been cut off by Greek bands.

Yet another Greek column, advancing towards Yanina, is said to have met with a reverse at Louros.

Two Greek bands are reported to have appeared in the hills immediately west of Monastir.

I have, &c.

C. A. Greig

p. 22

No 311.2

Enclosure 2 in No 311

(Confidential)

Vice Consul Greig to Sir G. Lowther

Monastir, November 2, 1912

Sir,

As reported in my despatch No 77, a Greek column occupied Kozhani on the 26th, and the Turks withdrew to the heights west of the Kozhani-Kailar road.

On the 28th the Greeks, probably reinforced, were reported on the high ground immediately north-east of Kailar, which was occupied the same day after a distant exchange of fire with some Turkish artillery. On the morning of the 29th the Greeks, continuing their march towards Sorovitch, encountered and dispersed a small Turkish force at Nalbandkeuy, capturing four mountain-guns. The composition of this force is unknown. It is said to have consisted mainly of Albanian redifs and volunteers. Five hundred wounded, mainly Albanians, have arrived here.² Sorovitch, evacuated, was occupied by the Greeks on the morning

² It is difficult to explain the resistance offered by the very inferior Turkish force at Nalbandkeuy unless the purpose was to gain time for the completion of defensive works farther north, in the Kirli Derbend.

of the 30th; and almost simultaneously another Greek column³ appeared at Posideri, a few miles west of Florina, the surroundings of which are infested with Greek bands.

On the 28th, with Kailar occupied and Sorovitch threatened, Monastir was in danger, and Ali Riza Pasha decided to reinforce the insignificant force opposing the Greek advance with part of the troops assembled at Perlepé.⁴

p. 23

Since the 30th these troops have been arriving in a continuous flow. They are sent by rail to Florina, beyond which point the line is no longer safe. Food was scarce at Perlepé, and they are in a wretched condition. Many of them are without rifles. Knapsacks and greatcoats, and, in most cases, the whole personal equipment, have vanished. They enter the town without any attempt at formation. Many of the first to arrive deserted and sold their rifles for a few medjidiehs. Gendarmes are now posted permanently at the corners of all the side-streets, and incoming soldiers are herded through the main thoroughfare to the barracks and thence to the railway station. In the panic at Kumanovo, the men, in many cases, fired on their officers, some of whom, for self-protection, cast off their badges of rank and put on the uniform of the rank and file, in which they arrived here.

In marked contrast is the cheerful bearing of the Albanians, who have as yet taken no part in the fighting. But no one seems to have any further belief in their fighting value, least of all Javid Pasha, who is said to be taking precautions against the infection of his other troops in the next battle by their anticipated indiscipline and flight.

The force sent from Perlepé to oppose the Greeks consists of 10,000 to 15,000 infantry, 150 cavalry, and about twelve guns. The infantry is officially described as fifteen battalions.

Without taking into account the force under Hassan Tahsin Pasha, which retired from the Sarandoporon Pass through Serfidjé to Karadzalar (north-east of

³ It was perhaps this column which occupied Grevena, Naselitch, Satista.

⁴ As reported in my despatch No 77 the troops at Perlepé were the debris of the VIth Army Corps from Kumanovo, now said to number 18,000 to 20,000 men with a few guns and little ammunition. Between Keuprilu and Perlepé there are also reported to be portions of the Vth Army Corps amounting to about five battalions. They are expected to make a stand in the Babuna district against a Servian force supposed to be descending from Keuprilu

Kailar), as to the whereabouts of which there is no reliable indication, the troops opposing the Greek advance on Monastir may be roughly detailed as follows: -

Six thousand men who retired from Sorovitch, and may at present be holding the Kirli Derbend. They probably include the 18th Nishanji battalion, the 1st battalion of the 54th regiment, and they may have six of the mountain-guns from Dibra;

Two thousand Anatolian redifs from Monastir; One hundred and fifty cavalry; and

Ten thousand to 15,000 infantry, with twelve guns and two machine-gun companies from Perlepé.

That is, a total of about 18,000 to 23,000, with perhaps eighteen guns and two machine-gun companies, or a total of at least 30,000 to 35,000, with more artillery if it includes Hassan Tahsin Pasha's command.

The principal officers of this force are Javid Pasha, commanding the VIth Army Corps; Mehmet Ali Pasha, commanding the Monastir redif division; and Mustapha Kerimi Pasha, commanding the 17th Nizam division.

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The opposing Greeks are said to be considerably stronger in every respect, especially in artillery.⁵ They are also supported on all sides by well-armed bands of irregulars, and have given arms to the Christian population of the districts through which they have passed.

Nor are the Turks likely to be considerably reinforced. For the 1,000 or so soldiers (mainly Elbassan redifs) still in Monastir provide a bare margin of safety against the bands of Greek, Bulgarian, and Servian irregulars in the hills on every side. Amongst other bands, one of about 250 men is near Megarovo, to the north-west of Monastir, and another of about the same strength is near Makovo, in the Morihovo district, in the north-east of Monastir, where arms are reported to have been distributed broadcast amongst the Christian population. The Kirchevo region is said to be full of Bulgarian and Servian bands.

It would also be rash to weaken the troops holding the Keuprilu-Perlepé-Monastir road against an expected Servian descent. In fact, for all that is known, the Serbs may be here before the Greeks, by way either of Perlepé or Kirchevo.

⁵ Wounded soldiers who have arrived here report that the Greeks are using machine-guns mounted on motor-cars, and that they cause great havoc.

It is anticipated that an attempt will be made to hold the Kirli Derbend (north of Sorovitch). If that position is forced from the south, or turned by a Greek force approaching, as is suspected, on the east from Vodhena and Ostrovo, a stand will probably be made at Banitsa, where Javid Pasha is reported to be entrenching so as to command the railway and the junction of the Sorovitch-Monastir and Vodhena-Ostrovo-Monastir roads.

The second Turkish line of defence runs from Kelenik eastwards astride the railway. Yet a third line of defence runs from Negochani eastwards, likewise across the railway. It is held by such redif battalions as Mehmet Ali Pasha has been able to reorganise.

In the event of defeat, the only retreat open to the Turks offering any hope of more than temporary escape would be into Albania by the Resna road. Even that will be closed, if meanwhile the Serbs break through on the Perlepé road; or if another Servian force has arrived by way of the Treska Valley and Kirchevo or by way of Kalkandelen and Kirchevo. Many bands of irregulars are said to have appeared round Giyavato, the key to the Resna road.

p. 25

With the approach of their enemies the attitude of the Moslems towards the Christians has undergone a remarkable change. They are now in terror of the treatment which, they conceive, may await them if the town is occupied, and especially if fighting takes place in the streets. More than the Greek or Servian soldiery, or even than the rapacity of the Albanian irregulars, they dread the reprisals of the Christians of the town itself. Dignity and patriotism have taken flight with astonishing suddenness. Headed by three leading notables, by the mufti, who is insisting on the iniquity of profitless and wanton bloodshed, and by the Ulema, they induced the spiritual heads of the Christian communities to join in petitioning the military authorities to abandon the idea of defending the town.⁶ Failing in that, they succeeded in coming to an agreement with the Christians who are in equal

⁶ They invited the members of the consular corps to associate themselves with this request, but they were unanimously of opinion that, in view of the comparatively strong Turkish force still in being, action of the kind on their part would be open to misinterpretation. With a view to the measures necessary for the protection of the lives of their subjects and their property, the consuls collectively requested the vali to inform them whether the military authorities propose as a last resort to defend the town itself, and were answered in the affirmative

fear of pillage or massacre by the Moslem riff-raff and Albanians, to reciprocally abstain from aggression in all circumstances.

In the course of these negotiations the Christians, with the support of the consuls, obtained a valuable concession, the release of the persons arrested in the circumstances, reported in my despatch No 73. These persons, in number more than 1,000, were confined in the barracks, and would have been in a precarious position in the event of a bombardment or of disturbances.

Notwithstanding this, all communities, especially the Moslems, are still in a state of great anxiety. The shops have several times been closed abruptly on false alarms. Many Moslems, including the president of the criminal court, the public prosecutor, and several officers, have asked for shelter at this vice-consulate in the event of bombardment or conflict.⁷ Many Christians have also applied. The latter are resolved to defend themselves desperately if attacked. Many who have no better weapons have brought petroleum to be thrown over their assailants and fired with "Bengal matches."

The unwarlike attitude of the officials and Moslem non-combatants has annoyed Ali Riza Pasha, who is, at present declaring his intention of making of Monastir a Plevna.

The Moslem refugees from the districts occupied by the Greeks are said to number between 12,000 and 20,000. Numbers of them are accommodated in the mosques.

p. 26 I have, &c.
C. A. Grieg

No 311.3
Enclosure 3 in No 311
(Confidential)
Vice Consul Greig to Sir G. Lowther

⁷ The one hope to which the local Moslems still cling is an intervention of the Powers, especially of England.

Monastir, November 16, 1912

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following account of the events of the past few days: -

The Greek troops marching on Monastir, as reported in my despatch No 79 of the 2nd instant, proved much weaker than was anticipated and greatly inferior to Javid Pasha's force. They amounted to 10,000 - 12,000 men of the 5th division, with twelve field guns, and two squadrons of cavalry commanded by an officer named Mathiopoulo. It occupied Sorovitch, and passing unopposed through the Kirli Derbend, took up a position at Cherovo, compelling the Turks to abandon the railway south of Florina. On the 3rd instant Javid Pasha, then at Banitsa with the 16th and 18th divisions, sent the 17th division and the Monastir redif division, forming his right wing, towards Sorovitch, by way of Vrtolom, Leskovets, and Negovani, whilst the 6th Nishanji regiment occupied Gornichevo on his left. The same day he himself advanced towards Cherovo. The attack, begun on the 3rd, seems to have been renewed on two sides on the 4th, when the Nishanji regiment from Gornichevo occupied the hills east of the Greek position. This move decided the issue, for the Greeks mistook the Nishanjis for a larger force, evacuated Cherovo, and retired towards Sorovitch. In spite of heavy losses they retired through the pass in good order, but near Sorovitch they realised that their escape was threatened by the Turkish right wing, a panic ensued, and they fled towards Kailar, abandoning all their artillery at the Nalbandkeuy bridge. Their destruction might have been complete had Javid Pasha disposed of any considerable body of cavalry. As it was, the pursuit slackened at Nalbandkeuy, and appears to have ceased altogether near Kailar.

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Javid Pasha estimates the Greek losses at 1,500 to 2,000 killed. He states that the Turks had only sixty men killed. He captured twelve guns,⁸ large numbers

⁸ Eleven of these guns are in good order, and are, it is understood, being used against the Serbs.

of rifles, and a quantity of hospital stores. Seventeen Greek prisoners including a non-commissioned officer, have arrived here.

Javid Pasha returned to Monastir on the 7th instant with the 16th and 18th divisions, leaving the 17th division at Kailar, and the Monastir redif division at Eksisou. The latter is now reported to be between Banitsa and Ostrovo, and a Greek column of unknown strength is said to be between Vladova and Ostrovo, Vodhena is occupied by the Greeks, who are using the railway between Gida (and perhaps Salonica) and Vladova. The Turks have destroyed a portion of the line between Pateli and Ostrovo.

By the 3rd instant it was vaguely known here that a force including all or part of the Vth Army Corps, under Karasaid Pasha, was retiring on Monastir by way of Kuprilu and Perlepe, and that the VIIth Army Corps under Fethi Pasha was approaching by way of Kalkandelen and Kirchevo, and that both were retreating before Servian or Serbo-Bulgarian columns, the strength of which was quite unknown.

The following is a brief account of what is at present known of the progress of the two armies: -

1. The VIIth Army Corps, under Fethi Pasha, after repeated engagements between Kalkandelen and Kirchevo, evacuated the latter place on the 5th instant, withdrawing by way of Pribilchi. On the 8th it reached Kukurechani, a point only 6 miles north of Monastir.

2. The force under Karasaid Pasha, after taking part in a series of engagements to the north of Perlepe, evacuated that place on the 5th, retiring to Topolchani, where a fierce encounter took place on the 6th. On the 5th, 6th, and 7th, Karasaid's troops were arriving here in utter confusion, and on the 8th the remnants of his command were camped at Orizari on the outskirts of this town.

The return of Javid Pasha to Monastir on the 7th instant with the 16th and 18th divisions from the pursuit of the Greeks was dictated by the disastrous course of the northern campaign. It is believed that credit is due mainly to him for the effort which has made further resistance possible.

To restore in some degree the confidence of the troops opposed to the Serbs, the soldiers left at Kailar and Eksisou after the successful Greek campaign have been gradually drafted into the battalions under Fethi and Karasaid Pasha and replaced by fugitives from Kirchevo and Perlepé; the rifles distributed amongst the Moslem population of Monastir have been called in and given to soldiers who had thrown away their arms in the flight; 2,000 gendarmes have been formed into four battalions; order⁹ has to some extent been re-established amongst the demoralised mob to which the three armies assembled here were reduced; and a plan has been worked out with a view to the defence of Monastir and keeping open a line of retreat by the Resna road.

The position taken up by the Turkish troops during the past few days is believed to be as follows: -

The left, commanded by Javid Pasha, consists of the Istib division and four battalions of gendarmes, with two machine-gun companies, and seven field-guns. It is rumoured that part of the Jakova division is also with the Turkish left. The exact distribution of these troops is unknown, but units are reported to be at Gijavat, Gopesh, Lera, Prevalets, and Oblakovo.

The centre, under Fethi Pasha, is believed to extend roughly from Lisolai to Kukurechani. It consists of troops of the VIth and VIIth Army Corps, with most of the available artillery, estimated at about thirty guns.

The right, under Karasaid Pasha, appears to extend from Kirklina to Karaman, its extreme right guarded by the extensive swamps along the bank of the Cherna Karasou. It consists of troops of the Vth and VIth Army Corps, with about twenty guns.

A reserve of a few regiments is at Orizari and Svieti Nedyela, close to Monastir.

It has become impossible to ascertain at all accurately the strength of the Turkish troops. The following is perhaps not very wide of the mark: -

(a.) Troops round Monastir-

⁹ The difficulty of reorganisation is enhanced by the shortage of officers. Over 50 per cent are believed to be lacking owing to casualties and desertion. The Istib division is said to have only seven officers.

1. Troops of the Vth Army Corps	15000
2. Troops of the VIIth Army Corps	10000
3. Troops of the VIth Army Corps-	
The 16th division (Ishtib)	7000
The 18th division (Dibra)	5000
(b.) Troops south of Monastir-	
4. The 17th division at Kailar	7000
5. The Monastir redif division	
between Gornichevo and Ostrovo	5000
Total	49000

The Turks estimate the strength of the Serbs at 60,000, with an immense superiority in artillery.

The Servian advance has probably been delayed by a heavy fall of snow on the 7th and 8th. The bulk of the columns approaching by way of Kalkandelen-Kirchevo and Kuprilu-Perlepé have joined hands, and Servian troops are now arriving at Petilap, a spot only 9 miles north of the most advanced Turkish trenches. Another force, probably detached from the Kalkandelen-Kirchevo column, is threatening Gopesh, and appears to be already in contact with Javid Pasha, firing being heard to-day in that direction. Firing is also audible east of Novak on the extreme Turkish right, tending to confirm the belief that the Serbs or Bulgarians are approaching east of the Cherna Karasou as well.

There is not a single officer in Monastir, who regards a prolonged resistance as possible.

The wounded are being sent to five regular hospitals in Monastir and to seven schools, two orphanages, and the military club. There are now about 2,500 patients. Accommodation of a kind remains for about 1,500. The temporary hospitals are in many cases destitute of beds, medicines and instruments. In the event of a protracted campaign, their condition will be appalling. All the civilian doctors of the town have been given the temporary rank of army medical officers.

The food supply of the Turkish troops is disgracefully mismanaged. The town is full of soldiers begging for bread, although the military authorities state that they have ample supplies for months. Several battalions are said to have been left long periods without food during damp and cold weather. The prices of all food-stuffs are rapidly nearing famine figures. Great distress will prevail unless communications are speedily re-established, for the influx of Moslem refugees from the districts occupied or threatened by the allies and the presence of large bodies of troops have more than doubled the normal population of the town. The outskirts of Monastir are strewn with dead animals, forage being scarce.

Order has been maintained -or has maintained itself- surprisingly considering the position. Apart from the pillaging of a few bakers' shops by starving soldiers, there has been in Monastir no incident whatsoever to record. In the outlying districts many villages have been partly or entirely destroyed by the combatants, and by the Greek, Bulgarian, Serb, and Moslem bands.

Reports are continually coming in of acts of violence and revenge inevitable at such a time in a country where animosities of race, religion, and language have so long been rife. In most cases it is impossible to verify these reports, but a list of cases believed to be genuine is given in the enclosure to this despatch.

On the 12th instant Eyyoub Sabri Bey left Monastir for Ochrida for the purpose of raising Albanian bands against the Serbs. Mehmet Pasha of Kalkandelen, who arrived here with Fethi Pasha, has gone with him.

I have, &c.

C. A. Greig

No 311.4

Enclosure 4 in No 311

Diary of various Incidents in the Neighbourhood of Monastir

October 20. - Haralambos, the Bulgarian priest of Velmei (kaza of Ochrida), and Tseli Naoum Grozdnof and Mitzi Naoum, Bulgarians of Lazhani (kaza of Ochrida), seized by a number of Moslem notables from Khoroshista, Ochrida, and

Delagojda, who conveyed them to Pesochani, where they were kept for three days without food and tortured from time to time by the application of hot eggs to their feet and armpits. They were then sent to Monastir and imprisoned. Haralambos is known to have long had suspicious relations with the Bulgarian committee. Mehmet Ali, of Ochrida, a committeeman, appears to have played the principal part in this incident.

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October 28. - The Greek monastery of Bukovo (kaza of Monastir) plundered by Albanian irregulars.

October 29. - Lambush Nestorof, of Struga; Heracli Philipchef, of Ochrida; Ivan Groupchef, of Ochrida; and Kristo Teodorof, of Prisoviani, murdered by gendarmes between Resna and Gijavat.

These men had been apprehended during the recent wholesale arrests of Bulgarians and Greeks suspected of having relations with the bands, and were at the time of their murder being conveyed to Monastir for imprisonment.

The Committee of Union and Progress, and especially Niazi Bey, is believed to have inspired this outrage.

October 30. - Jabiani and Kalenik, Bulgarian villages in the kaza of Florina, sacked by Albanian irregulars.

Kotori Zir and Kotori Bala sacked and burnt by Albanian irregulars. Both are Christian villages in the Florina kaza.

October 31.- The Moslem village of Mahalia, in the kaza of Florina, destroyed by a Greek band under Liondef, in revenge for the destruction of Kotori Zir and Kotori Bala. Several of the inhabitants were killed. The Greek band seems to have possessed a mountain gun.

Porodin, an Albanian village in the kaza of Monastir, plundered by Albanians from Ostrets.

November 2. - Banitsa and Zapardani, important Christian villages in the kaza of Florina, burnt during Javid Pasha's advance against the Greeks. The Turks say that the Greeks, who had stored a quantity of straw in these villages, fired it when they retreated, and so caused the conflagration. The truth probably is that the Turks burnt them because they were a resort of Greek bands.

November 3. - The Bulgarian leader Tchaoulef, with a strong band, destroyed a Turkish patrol of ten men between Ochrida and Kirchevo.

November 3-5. - Cherovo, Sorovitch, Eksisou, Negovani, Leskovets, Ostrovo, and Patelli destroyed during Javid Pasha's campaign against the Greeks.

The Turks seem to be systematically destroying villages which have sheltered irregular bands - a necessary military measure.

November 9. - Encounter at Novak (kaza of Monastir) between Turkish troops and a Bulgarian band from the Morihovo district. The band seems to have possessed a mountain gun.

The village took fire during the encounter and several houses were burnt.

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November 10.- Kukurechani, Mogila, and Dogrijani, Bulgarian villages in the kaza of Monastir, destroyed partially by Turkish troops.

The local authorities accuse the Serbs of wholesale plunder, massacre, and outrage at Kirchevo and Perlepé, and at the Moslem villages of Varbovets, Erekovtsi, Kanatlartsi, and Moussentsi (all in the Perlepé district).

They state that at Kailar the Greeks deliberately burnt thirty Moslems' houses, as well as the konak, municipal offices, and the offices of the Régie, and that they butchered twenty non-combatant Moslems; and that they set fire to the hospital at Naselitch, burning the inmates alive.

In the course of his Greek campaign Javid Pasha disbanded most of the Albanian irregulars, whose indiscipline proved incorrigible. The remainder, who are mainly from the Dibra district, are gradually returning to their homes, which are, they believe, threatened by the Serbs.

No 311.5

Enclosure 5 in No 311

Vice-Consul Greig to Sir G. Lowther

(Confidential)

Monastir, November 28, 1912

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency on the events of the past few days as follows: -

November 16.- Throughout the day the Serbs were taking up positions round the whole Turkish front. The Servian artillery at Chernobok, near Mogila, and at Novak engaged the artillery of the Turkish centre and right. Shrapnell from Mogila began to fall among the reserves at Orizari. By the evening the Turkish centre and right appeared to be roughly separated from the Serbs by the Cherna Karasou except at Tirn on the extreme right, which was occupied towards midday by Serbs who crossed the river from Trap. The Turks in consequence advanced a battery to a point almost due west of Tirn, and fighting continued at that point till evening, both Turks and Serbs standing in water in many places up to their knees.

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The only news of the operations on the Turkish left was to the effect that Oblakovo and Sekirani were occupied by the Serbs.

Ali Riza Pasha, commander-in-chief of the western army, fearing the turning of his right flank, gave orders that the engines in Monastir railway station should be kept ready to leave at a moment's notice with as much rolling-stock as possible. He himself left in the night by rail for Florina. Several villages were on fire east of Monastir beyond the Cherna Karasou.

A Turkish retreat was considered imminent.

November 17.- The Turkish left was reported to have retired, after some hard fighting, from its first line towards Gijavat and Kajhani.

The Serb attack on the Turkish right was rapidly developing, numerous batteries having been placed in position during the night east of the river at Trap, Vlaktar, Meglenchi, Dobromir, and Biljanik. Against this attack the Turks were holding the line Karaman- Chekriksi in the midst of the swamps.

By evening their artillery fire had become feeble, and there was a brisk fusillade across the river.

Towards the Turkish centre, too, the Serbs were closing in.

The batteries at Mogila were pushed further south, and a few shells fell, without doing much damage, in the suburbs of Monastir.

Shevket Bey, commanding the 7th Cavalry Brigade, left for Kenali (south of Monastir) with the remaining cavalry, about 150 sabres.

November 18.- The batteries at Mogila and east of the river continued to bombard the Turkish right evidently with effect. Towards midday, parties of soldiers entered Monastir in flight.

Early in the afternoon the Turkish artillery on the extreme right ceased firing, and masses of Servian infantry were visible in the swamps this side of the river. By 2 p.m. the retreat of the Turks from Orizari was in full progress, and before nightfall they had vanished towards Florina. A few Turks continued to resist until late in the evening in a hopeless position in the swamps near Chekriksi. Their fate is unknown.

Soon after the departure of the troops the vali, in answer to enquiries made by the consular corps, showed us a letter addressed to him by Zekki Pasha, stating that all the positions round Monastir had been evacuated and that the whole of the western army was retiring towards Florina.

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The same evening the consular representatives were approached by a deputation representing the various communities who were anxious to treat for the surrender of the town through our medium. We were, however, unanimously of opinion that such a step on our part was unnecessary, and our action was accordingly confined to advising the deputation as to the manner of handing over the place.

November 19.- In accordance with our advice white flags were hoisted early in the morning over the barracks and other Government buildings, and a deputation consisting of the mayor, the mufti, and the heads of the several communities proceeded with a white flag to the nearest Servian outpost, through which they communicated with the competent authorities.

About midday Servian troops entered Monastir and proceeded to the barracks amidst scenes of great enthusiasm.

Others camped in the neighbourhood of the town.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, commanding the 1st Army, arrived on the 20th from Perlepé with Prince Alexis.

With the Servian army arrived M. Gendich, a former Minister of the Interior, and the British, Italian, French, and Russian military attachés.

By the 22nd, a Provisional Government had been formed consisting of a military governor, an assistant military governor, a chief of police, and a prefect. An acting mayor has also been appointed, assisted by a committee of five advisers and a secretary. The acting mayor is a Serb. The committee is composed of a Moslem (the ex-mayor), two Serbs, a Bulgarian, and a Greek. The secretary is a Serb.

The vali and other Turkish officials have been allowed to remain at large.

During the first few days of the occupation, the streets were inadequately patrolled and the state of public security left much to be desired. Several shops were pillaged and private houses broken into and their owners molested. This state of things culminated in an attempt by soldiers to forcibly enter the house of an Austrian subject in the main street, in consequence of which the consuls requested the authorities to place sentries by the houses of their subjects. This has been done and the patrols have been increased.

After the departure of the Turkish troops and before the arrival of the Serbs, the Christian inhabitants of Monastir plundered the barracks and military depots, stealing thousands of weapons.

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One of the first acts of the Provisional Government has been to collect as many of these as possible. On the 22nd instant, notices were issued that persons failing to give up any arms in their possession within twenty-four hours would be punished.

The Greeks have established a Provisional Government at Florina. M. Navroudís, lately Greek consul in Monastir, is acting as governor of the town.

When the Turks retreated on the 18th, Fethi Pasha,¹⁰ with the troops of the centre, proceeded by way of the Chemnitsa Valley towards Prevalets, and seems to have joined forces with the left under Javid Pasha, who had for four days been holding the positions guarding the retreat by the Resna road with tenacity.

Their forces retreated together by way of Malovista, striking the Resna-Gorcha road near the northern extremity of Lake Presba, whence they proceeded south.

¹⁰ The Servian military authorities state that the body of Fethi Pasha, dead of wounds, was found after the Turkish retreat near the village of Kazhani.

The troops of the Turkish right wing and the reserves at Orizari and Sviyeti Nedyela retreated with Zekki and Karasaid Pasha to Florina, where they were probably joined on the 19th by the 17th division from Kailar and the Monastir redif division, which was retreating before two Greek divisions on the Vodhena-Ostrovo road.¹¹

From Florina this portion of the Turkish army is reported to have retired by way of Pisoderi and Biklista towards Gorcha, where it is believed to have been joined by the forces of Javid and Fethi Pasha. Nothing certain is known of the further movements of the Turks.

The independent cavalry division under Prince Arsène, advancing from Perlepé, east to the main road, and of the Cherna Karasou, which it crossed at Brod -too late to take the retreating Turks in flank- reached Florina on the 20th about the same time as the two Greek divisions.

The present distribution of the Greek troops in this district is as follows: -

The 4th and 6th divisions are at Florina.

The 3rd division and a cavalry regiment are at Castoria,

The 8th division is near Yanina.

The present distribution of the Servian troops in this district is as follows: -

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"Morava 1st ban" at Kristopher (on the outskirts of Monastir).

"Morava 2nd ban" at Resna, Ochrida, and Struga.

"Danube 1st ban" at Monastir and Dobromir (8 miles north-east of Monastir).

"Drina 1st ban" at Klestina (a few miles north of Florina).

"Timok 2nd ban" at Orizari (a suburb of Monastir).

The independent cavalry division at Kenali (south-east of Monastir).

¹¹ The Monastir redif division, although it had no artillery, fought two actions to delay the Greek advance a little west of Ostrovo on the 17th and near Gornichevo on the 18th. The Turkish losses in these encounters are estimated by the Greeks at about 500 men killed.

According to Servian official statements, the Turks lost about 6,000 killed and wounded, and 3,000 men captured round Monastir.¹² 1,500 Turks surrendered at Florina.¹³

The Serbs admit a loss of about 3,000.

Allowing for casualties, surrenders, and desertions, the strength of the Turks who fought at Monastir is now unlikely to exceed 30,000 men. Fifty-one guns were abandoned round Monastir. Javid Pasha saved all his artillery, but it amounts to only seven field-guns (captured from the Greeks) and a few mountain-guns. The troops who retreated under Zekki and Karasaid had only three batteries of field-guns.

The Christians captured by the Serbs are to be sent to their homes. The Moslems will probably go to Nish.

The arrival of a foreign army was received by the Christians of Monastir with every sign of joy, but the occupation is becoming daily less popular. There is scarcely a Serb in the kaza of Monastir, and the old questions of race and language will die hard. Initial prejudice is finding, too, a legitimate grievance in acts of pillage by Servian soldiers.¹⁴

The following table shows the ethnical distribution of the male population of the kazas of Monastir, Florina, Perlepe, Kirchevo, and Ochrida.¹⁵

¹² The fiercest fighting was on the Turkish left, where both sides had most of their casualties. Out of a total of about 3,000 casualties on the Servian side Javid Pasha was responsible for about 2,500.

¹³ The commander-in-chief of the western army was officially reported to have surrendered with them, but this is now denied.

¹⁴ It is fair to state that efforts are being made to prevent further incidents and that soldiers who have molested Moslems are being punished.

¹⁵ This table was drawn up in January last in view of the elections by the Committee of Union and Progress, which was then anxious to secure the election of a Serb deputy for Monastir. The figures are therefore likely to be as favourable as possible for the Serbs.

<i>Kaza.</i>	<i>Moslems</i>	<i>Bulgars</i>	<i>Greeks</i>	<i>Serbs</i>	<i>Vlachs</i>	<i>Jews</i>
Monastir	14,235	29,215	17,324		1,461	2,176
Florina	8,243	8,393	13,106		386	2
Perlepe	8,448	17,500	2,386	5,500	95	
Kirchevo	8	6,399		5		
Ochrida	10,225	17,156	1,971	780	163	
Total	49,751	78,663	34,787	11,680	2,055	2,178

His Royal Highness Prince Constantine, who commands the Greek forces at Florina, visited Monastir on the 25th and was most enthusiastically received by the people. He returned to Florina on the 26th. He was accompanied by General Danglis, his chief-of-staff.

The latter, whilst here stated, that according to the original agreement between the allies, the new northern frontier of Greece would run from the mouth of the Skoumbi on the Adriatic following its course so far as possible, to Lin on the western shore of Lake Ochrida, and thence to Gopesh through Peshtani and Krushei. From Gopesh it would proceed by Lisolai to Rasinbey on the Cherna Karasou, and thence-marching so far as possible with the river-to Krivolak.

There is an impression in Servian military circles here that Monastir will not fall to the lot of the Serbs.

For many confirmatory details in connection with the foregoing despatch I am indebted to Major Thompson and Major Cunliffe-Owen, attached to the Servian and Greek forces respectively.

I have, &c.

C. A. Greig

[FO 371/1782]

No 147

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey - (Received February 26.)

Constantinople, February 22, 1913

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a despatch from His Majesty's vice-consul at Monastir, on the subject of the distress and relief work in that district.

I have sent a copy of this despatch to Cairo.

I have, &c.

Gerard Lowther

No 147.1

Vice-Consul Greig to Sir G. Lowther

(Confidential)

Monastir, February 4, 1913

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a note, the original of which was addressed by me to Lord Onslow, on the subject of the distress in this district.

The following is a brief statement (1) of funds actually available, and (2) of funds anticipated or promised for British relief work in this district: -

1. Funds actually available

£

(a.) For the work of the Macedonian Relief Fund,
represented by Miss MacQueen and Mr. Maynard-

Granted by the Macedonian Relief Fund 950

(b.) For the work of His Majesty's vice- consulate

Sent by the British Red Crescent 550

Given by the Macedonian Relief Fund 100

1600

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2. Funds anticipated or promised

(a.) For the work of the Macedonian Relief Fund -

Promised by the Macedonian Relief Fund 500

(b.) For the work of His Majesty's vice-consulate-

Promised by the editor of the Indian paper "Comrade" 400

900

A considerable part of the funds under the first heading have been spent.

Apart from these resources, a supply of much-needed clothing has been kindly promised by Lady Paget for the relief work of this vice- consulate, and Miss MacQueen has promise of a similar supply from other sources.

It is hoped that the hospital, of which Miss MacQueen has taken charge, may develop after the war into a permanent British establishment - a proposal to which the Servian authorities would appear to have no objection.

As stated in the accompanying note, the funds available and promised are utterly insufficient to deal with more than a fraction of the distress in the town of Monastir, leaving no margin for work outside.

The villages were intended to be the special province of Mr. Maynard, but, until and unless much larger sums are forthcoming, he will be limited to reporting on the situation, whereas relief in the form of food, clothing, and fuel is needed, at once. The position is appalling.

Supplies of flour, rice, and butter for distressed Moslems have been promised by Kamel Bey Teymour, who recently visited Monastir, and describes

himself as "Head of the Fourth Egyptian Red Crescent Mission and of the High Relief Commission."

Kamel Bey is evidently quite under Austrian influence, to which, as will later be shown, he was probably won over before leaving Egypt.

He came to Monastir with the intention, above all, of promoting and supporting the comparatively insignificant relief work of the Austrian consulate, which has from the first deliberately subordinated charity to political propaganda, and endeavoured by the carefully organised campaign of its numerous agents to create amongst the Moslems an impression that all the relief work in this district, our own included, is inspired by and due to Austrian pro-Moslem initiative.

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He arrived here on the evening of the 30th January, and at once entered into relations with the Austrian consulate, where he seems to have been treated to such a flattering account of Austrian pro- Moslem endeavour and intentions that he thought it superfluous even to take stock of the parallel British, French, and American organisations, to which my colleague had obviously made a calculatedly passing allusion.

He intended to leave on the following morning without calling on anyone else. An accident prevented this. His application for a railway "pass" to Salonica had been sent in through the Austrian consulate, and consequently the Servian authorities were slow in making it out, and he missed his train.

Meanwhile his arrival had become the main topic of conversation in Monastir, and his intimacy with the Austrian consulate had provoked considerable comment. Consequently, with a whole day to spare, he felt obliged to call on me, which he did, accompanied by my Austrian colleague, who did not leave him a moment the whole day.

It transpired from his conversation that, he had very readily committed himself to promoting the Austrian relief work in a way admirably calculated to favour Austrian propaganda, and very detrimental to British prestige, by the following means: -

1. By arranging to send to the Austrian consul a supply of flour, rice, and butter, to be shared by him, apparently at his discretion, with any other deserving relief work.

2. By arranging to send to the Austrian consul a considerable sum of money, to be administered by an international committee, of which the Austrian consul, the mufti, and certain Moslem notables, would be the central figures, round which would be grouped the representatives of the other local relief organisations- British, French, and American.

p. 79 As an outcome of our conversation it was arranged, as regards the first point, that a supply of provisions equal to that promised to the Austrian consulate should be sent to me directly-not through the medium of my Austrian colleague. As regards the second point, I observed that, in the event of money being sent, it would in the circumstances be possible for me to become a member of the suggested committee only on the understanding that it should include, besides the mufti and Moslem notables, a representative of each of the other relief organisations in Monastir on exactly equal terms. I also suggested that the Moslem notables should be elected by lot from a list drawn up by the proposed *ex officio* members of the committee, hoping so to prevent in some degree the obvious evil of a panel selected solely by the Austrian consul.

Kamel consented vaguely to these proposals.

He did not visit the hospital being organised by Miss MacQueen.

In a previous paragraph it was stated that, to the best of my belief, Kamel was tampered with in Austrian interests before leaving Egypt. In this connection it is known with tolerable certainty that an endeavour was made through a M. Naus, a Belgian subject who lives in Cairo, and is the brother-in-law of my Austrian colleague, to induce the Egyptian Red Crescent to place at the disposal of the Austrian relief work in Monastir a sum of 50,000 fr., described as being ten days' interest on certain sums held by that organisation. The scheme, approved by a majority of the Egyptian Red Crescent Committee, or kindred body, appears to have nearly succeeded, but was at the last moment frustrated by the veto of an

Egyptian prince (name unknown to me). This vice-consulate at the time received vague information that this plan was on foot, and on the 19th December I had sufficient information to justify my telegraphing to the Foreign Office that an, Austrian attempt was being made to obtain funds from Egypt for Austrian relief work in Monastir.

All honest charitable efforts, British or foreign, being equally deserving of support, it will be a matter for regret if Austrian relief work, which is an instrument of propaganda, and of propaganda bitterly hostile to British interests, should be promoted to our detriment by funds which are the fruits of British administration in Egypt.

I have, &c.

C. A. Greig

p. 80 p.s. -- would mention that the Austrian consul is doyen of the Monastir consular corps, and that Austrian consulates, where no German consulates exist, undertake the official protection of Ottoman subjects at the present moment. But I venture to think that these are no reasons at all for the preferential treatment shown by the representative of the Egyptian Red Crescent.

C.A.G.

No 147.2

Enclosure 2 in No 1

Monastir, January 21, 1913

Note on Distress in District of Monastir

THE war has caused widespread distress in the Monastir district. It is believed that about 80 per cent of the villages inhabited exclusively by Moslems,

and of the Moslem quarters of villages with a mixed population, have been sacked and partially or wholly destroyed, or both, throughout the kazas of Monastir, Kirchevo, Florina, Serfidjé, Kailar, Kozhani, Elassona, Grevena, Naselitch, and Kastoria. Considerable distress is also reported amongst both Christians and Moslems in the Gorcha and Dibra districts.

Subsequent enquiry will probably show that the irregular troops attached to the contending armies and parties of marauders from the neighbouring Christian villages were mainly responsible for the work of destruction.

The destruction has not been limited to Moslem villages. In the kaza of Florina the Christian population suffered severely, especially round Sorovitch, Banitsa, and Eksisou. But, so far as is known, enough villages have everywhere survived to harbour all the refugees. No place has been heard of where the Christian villagers are in any danger of starvation. In many cases they have actually been enriched by plunder from their Moslem neighbours.

In the early days of the campaign thousands of Moslems fled from the villages and took refuge at Salonica and Monastir. About 8,000 of the refugees in this town have been distributed amongst the few surviving Moslem villages, whose resources must be taxed to the utmost. The relatively accurate statistics now available show that some 12,000 remain - a larger number than was at first supposed. Of these some 4,500 are receiving relief from the following sources: -

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1. The Red Crescent, which, through His Majesty's vice-consulate, is providing food for upwards of 800.¹⁶

2. The Macedonian Relief Fund, which, represented by Miss MacQueen, is providing food for a number to be brought up to about 1,000. Miss MacQueen has undertaken other work described in a subsequent paragraph.

3. The American Mission, which, with funds partly provided by Great Britain, is feeding about 800.

¹⁶ To this work the Macedonian Relief Fund has kindly contributed 100 l.

4. The French Sisters, who, with funds partly furnished by the French Government, are feeding about 1,000.

5. The Austrian consulate, which, with funds partly provided by the Austrian Government, is feeding about 800.

The remainder, in receipt of no permanent relief,¹⁷ are in a pitiable condition. Many of them have sold the few effects they were able to carry away from their homes, including blankets and bedding, and are within sight of starvation. Numbers of the permanent inhabitants of the town are in nearly as bad a plight as the refugees. The crowded Moslem quarters, where even mosques are used as dwellings, are in a very unsanitary state, with which the municipal authorities are unable to deal for lack of funds and transport. The absence hitherto of any serious epidemic is probably due to the healthy climate. There have been cases of smallpox, but as vaccination is being carried out by the authorities on a large scale its rapid spread is not anticipated.

The funds generously provided are therefore, unhappily, very inadequate to meet the existing distress even in the town of Monastir, much less in the outlying districts, where the surviving Moslem villages must be crowded with refugees in much the same state.

The whole of the relief work: in progress here as already described is organised on the assumption that its continuance will be necessary for only three or four months.

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It may be necessary much longer. If so, it is hoped that the necessary funds will be forthcoming. It would be painful to leave to their fate those now being helped.

It is not anticipated that many of the refugees still here will or safely could return to their ruined villages until a stable administration exists. Those who ultimately return will need temporary shelters, a free grant of personal and

¹⁷ The municipal authorities are feeding upwards of 2,000 persons, but their funds are only sufficient for a short period.

household effects, oxen and donkeys, agricultural implements, and seed, and, above all, the means of tiding over an initial period of penury. Emigration may partly solve the difficulty.

This year's crops are expected to give less than half the normal yield.

The work undertaken by Miss MacQueen has already been referred to. Apart from her other occupations, which include the distribution of food, visits to sick persons, and a vigilant look-out for disease, she is taking charge of thirty beds at the municipal hospital, which have courteously been placed at her disposal by the Servian authorities.

The present need in the Monastir district is probably far greater than in 1903 and 1904, when vastly larger sums were devoted to its relief.

C. A. Greig

[FO 294/51]

No 31

(Confidential)

H. B. M. Vice-Consulate

Monastir

His Excellency

Rt. Hon. Sir Gerard A. Lowther, GCMG, CB

etc., etc., etc.

H. B. M. Ambassador Extraordinary

Constantinople

May 25th, 1913

Sir,

I have the honour to communicate to Your Excellency the following information regarding the position of the Bulgarian population in the portions of this district occupied respectively by the Serbs and by the Greeks.

The position in the Serbian Districts

Herewith is enclosed (see Enclosure No 1) a communication received from the Bulgarian Archbishop of Monastir describing cases of oppressive treatment to which the Bulgarian element is stated to have been subjected by the Servian Authorities.

To this communication, which is very long and redundant, I have attached an abbreviated translation giving the essential facts, comment or explanation being added where possible (see Enclosure No 2).

Many of the details I am unable either to confirm or deny. But taken as a whole and with due allowance for exaggeration, most of the incidents described are in keeping with the purpose of Servian policy towards the non-Serb Christian communities in the occupied districts. That purpose is the extinction of national feeling by undermining its strongest pillars - Churches, Monasteries, Schools. In its

entirety this policy is at present applied to the Bulgarian element only. It is most pronounced in the Dibra, Krchevo, Krushevo and Perlepé districts, which have long been the clashing-point of Servian and Bulgarian propaganda in this region.

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The chief incidents complained of are as follows. -

(1) Churches and monasteries are stated in certain cases to have been closed or seized. The following instances are given. -

(a) The forcible closing of the Exarchist Churches at Lazaropole and Zernovitsa (Dibra).

(b) The expulsion of the Exarchist Priest from the Church at Tresanché (Dibra), where a Servian Priest appears to be officiating in his stead.

(c) The expulsion of the Exarchist caretaker and occupant of the Monastery of Krchevo and its seizure by the Servian ecclesiastical authorities.

(2) The forcible subjection of the Exarchist population to the Servian hierarchy, of which the following instances are given. -

(a) The Exarchist Archmandrite of Galichnik (Dibra) forbidden to officiate for refusing to recognize the Servian Bishop of Dibra instead of the Bulgarian Archbishop.

(b) The Exarchist inhabitants of Lazaropole and Zernovitsa ordered by the Dibra Prefecture to recognize the Servian instead of the Bulgarian spiritual authorities. Fourteen persons of Lazaropole imprisoned for refusing.

(3) Suppression of the Bulgarian language, of which the following instances are given. -

(a) Mutilation by the Authorities of inscriptions in Bulgarian in the Church of Lazaropole.

(b) Mutilation by unknown persons of an inscription on the outside wall of the Bulgarian Church of Sviyeti Nedyela (Monastir).

(c) Flogging of a Bulgarian inn-keeper for having a sign-board worded in Bulgarian.

(4) Forced labour, e.g. -

The Bulgarian inhabitants of Lazaropole compelled to repair the road between Dibra and Zernovitsa.

(5) Unfair impositions, of which the following ones are given. -

(a) Heavy road-tax exacted from the inhabitants of Lazaropole and neighbouring villages (Dibra).

(b) Special tribute imposed on Lazaropole.

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(6) General persecution and abuse of authority. The following instances are given. -

(a) Bulgarians prevented from travelling.

(b) Bulgarian newspapers suppressed.

(c) Viciously conducted searches for hidden arms.

(d) Violent punishment - such as flogging accompanied by the exaction of bribes, exorbitant fines, imprisonment, or threats of death - inflicted on persons suspected of being agents of propaganda.

(e) The arrest and subsequent disappearance of a Bulgarian schoolmaster and three other Bulgarians of Mavrovo (Gostivar).

Since receipt of the foregoing information from the Bulgarian Archbishop of Monastir, the following incidents have occurred. -

(a) On the 9th instant, a Servian soldier proceeding from Ressna towards Monastir was attacked and wounded by unknown persons near Gijavat.

(b) On the 1Qth instant, another soldier was seized on the same road near Tsapari (ten miles N. by W. of Monastir) by unknown persons, one of whom seems to have shot him in the hand with the remark - "I will only wound you, but go to your Officer and say that this is a sign that the Bulgars will not submit to Servian government."

The Servian Authorities attached great importance to these incidents, in consequences of which a Company of soldiers was sent to Monastir. It is rumoured that some of these have been quietly put out of the way, but this is not yet confirmed. It seems certain that several inhabitants of the village, who were not at the time arrested, have since vanished; but it is quite possible they have taken to the hills. the Bulgarian Archbishop tells me that several Bulgarians of the two villages were beaten by the soldiers. Upwards of 300 rifles are believed to have been discovered at Tsapari.

(c) On the 16th instant towards midnight, a Bulgarian family names Penjerkef (alias Stamboulief) consisting of husband, wife, and a son aged eight, were mysteriously murdered in their home, of which they were the only inmates; in one of the most respectable quarters of Monastir. They were stabbed to death. There is at present no clue as to the authors of the crime, but there is a general tendency amongst the local population to attribute it to Servian official agents. It is argued that it occurred significantly soon after the Gijavat and Tsapari incidents, that the Authorities had been talking openly of making an example; that the victims were admirably chosen with a view to impressing other propaganda agents, for Perjerkef was once Treasurer of the local Bulgarian Committee. It is also asked how the murderers, one of whom is known to have been wounded from bloodstains tracked along a neighbouring street, can have passed through the town so late without being challenged by any of the numerous sentries; and why one of the bodies, the father's, lay exposed to the full view of passers-by for some hours after its discovery on the balcony of the house.

(d) On the 23rd instant, the following incidents occurred. -

1. A notice was found on the door of a house in Monastir occupied by a Bulgarian family names Sekulof demanding payment to the Bulgarian Committee of a large sum of money.
2. A similar notice was found on the door of another Bulgarian house addressed to one Nikola Kurchief.

Both of these families have had intimate relations with the Committee in the past.

The local Bulgarians accuse the Servian Authorities of forging these notices which are expected to serve on a future occasion as a pretext for attacking other suspected persons.

The Position in the Greek Districts

The following information regarding the treatment of the Bulgarian element by the Greek Authorities has been received from the Exarchist Archbishop of Monastir. -

(1) Wholesale arrests are stated to have been made amongst the Bulgarians, more especially in the Castoria district, the arrested persons being generally well-to-do members of the Community - particularly Priests, Schoolmasters and Ex-Comitajis. They are usually apprehended on mere suspicion or on a vague charge of carrying on propaganda to the detriment of orthodoxy and hellenism. The following instances are quoted. -

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(a) Traico Ristef of Jelevo (Castoria), aged 60, arrested and sent to Salonica on a charge of spreading the report that a Bulgarian occupation of the district is imminent.

(b) The Bulgarian schoolmaster of Roulia (Castoria) imprisoned for the discovery in his house of notes on outrages alleged to have been committed by the Greek and Turkish troops.

(2) Exarchist Priests who were originally Patriarchists are stated to have been forbidden to officiate in Slav. This is said to have been the case at Ochtima, Roulia, and Trnovo (Castoria).

(3) Searches in private houses for hidden weapons are stated to be frequent and to be often used as an opportunity for robbery by the official agents employed.

From other sources, news has been received of the following incidents in the Greek districts. -

(1) Mito Petre, a Bulgarian of Monastir who has been somewhat prominently concerned in propaganda, was arrested at Florina on the 12th instant and sent to Karaferia charged with being a carrier of seditious correspondence. Letters found in his possession seem to have contained invitations to prominent Bulgars of Florina and Castoria to attend a propaganda Congress at Monastir.

(2) On the 12th instant or thereabouts, 17 Bulgars were arrested near Zelenitch on a charge of murdering a Khoja of Lubetino (Florina). They are reported to have been sent to Karaferia.

(3) About the 1st instant, a Bulgarian Priest from Kirk-Kilissé was arrested at Armensko charged with being the carrier of seditious correspondence. He is reported to have been sent to Salonica with six other Bulgars of Armensko (Florina).

(4) Shakir Effendi, a notable of Selenitsa, was recently arrested on a similar charge.

p. 101 General Remarks

Both the Servian and Greek Authorities in this district fully believe in the existence of a Bulgarian propaganda supported from without, which means an organization prepared to strike in the event of war between the Allies. The symptoms seem to justify this belief. The support and countenance from without are probably Bulgarian and Austrian. There is danger of the local authorities being carried away by their suspicions and resorting to excessive measures of suppression likely to create an intolerable position and defeat their own purpose. The whole district is probably better stocked with concealed arms and ammunition than ever before.

I have the honour to be,
With the highest respect,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble Servant,
C.A. Greig

No 31.1

Enclosure of Mr Greig's despatch No 31 of May 25th, 1913

Extract of Enclosure No 1 with observations in brackets

III-Treatment of Bulgarians of the Monastir District by the Serbs in Occupation

1. On March 27th two Bulgarian flags were removed by Servian soldiers from the roof of the Bulgarian School at Monastir, which is at present used as Barracks, and torn up.

(I have no information about this.)

2. On March 30th a Bulgarian mechanic of Struga named Kavaef was arrested and brought before the Commandant, who had him placed beside a newly-dug grave and asked him whether he had ever been a Comitaji. On replying in the negative, he was told that the grave was for him. He was then thrown down and beaten till he became unconscious. He was ultimately released after being told that the rest of the Bulgars can expect the same fate. The local doctor, a Turk, was forbidden to dress his wounds.

(I have no information about this.)

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3. The Church of Sviyeti Nedyela (Monastir) bears on its wall the inscription "Bulgarian Church of Sviyeti Nedyela". During the night of March 30th, the word "Bulgarian" was effaced by unknown persons. The Authorities undertook to discover and punish the guilty persons, but did nothing.

(This is true.)

4. On April 8th, the Authorities at Monastir searched, with a view to discovering hidden arms, the houses and shops of the brothers Rusamarof, of the brothers Spanakof, and of Boris Gavazof. On the premises of the first-named were found portions of uniforms which had been cast off by Turkish soldiers when Monastir was evacuated and afterwards torn up for household use. On the premises of the second-named was found a saddle. On the premises of the third-named was found a bayonet of a Mauser rifle. These innocent objects were confiscated and in each case a fine of 100 francs was inflicted. The Spanakofs were in a position to prove that the saddle had been legitimately purchased, but that was not taken into account.

(This is believed to be substantially true.)

5. On March 7th, a Bulgarian ex-Comitaji of Opticharé (Monastir) named Petre Pavlof was arrested for being in possession of a Turkish rifle. He was released on March 30th after giving the headman of the district a bribe of 10 liras. During his detention, he was beaten every day and his health is impaired. He had been employed as a watchman and therefore needed a rifle.

(I have no information about this.)

6. With the Petre Pavlos mentioned in the preceding paragraph was arrested a Khoja of Ostrets (Monastir) who was accused of knowing of a place where arms were hidden. He was tortured to reveal it. After being nearly beaten to death, he paid a bribe of 300 francs and was released.

(I have no information about this. Ostrets, which is an Albanian village, has always been a den of thieves.)

7. Stoiché Dishkof, a Bulgarian of Karaman (Monastir), was arrested on a charge of having a rifle. Although he had no such thing, he paid a bribe of 500 dinars to escape torture and imprisonment.

(I have no information about this.)

8. Towards the end of March, Traiko Tsvetkof, a Bulgarian of Perlepé, was fined 40 dinars for reading the Bulgarian newspaper "Vecherna Pochta".

(I have no information about this case. But all Bulgarian newspapers are forbidden except the "Balkan".)

9. On April 9th Simeon Michaelof, a Bulgarian schoolmaster of Istib, started on a journey to Salonica after duly obtaining the necessary official pass. On reaching the railway-station, he was searched, and an innocent letter from the Archbishop of the Exarchist Authorities at Sofia was found in his possession. For this he was beaten and imprisoned 15 days.

(I have no information about this.)

10. On April 15th, a Bulgarian named Georghi Christof, who owns the " Traders' Inn" at Monastir, was savagely flogged by a Private of the 18th Regiment named Milan Michaelof (sic) for not having had the inscription on the sign-board of his inn translated into Serb. He was further accused of carrying letters for the Bulgarian Committee between Monastir and Ochrida and of spreading a report that the Bulgarian Army will shortly occupy Monastir.

(I am unable to confirm this.)

11. The Serbo-Greek entente was celebrated in Monastir at Easter by feasting, drinking and cries of "Long live Servia and Greece!", " Down with Bulgaria!"

(The Bulgarians have themselves held aloof since the occupation of Monastir by the Serbs from all festivities in common with the Serbs and Greeks. At Easter, feeling was very strong against the Bulgarians, but I am unable to obtain any confirmation of the demonstrations alleged.)

12. (a) On January 13th, a Servian Officer from Dibra arrived at Lazaropole, called together the Bulgarian Schoolmasters, notables, ordered them to recognize in future none but the spiritual authorities, failing which they would be shot.

(I have been unable to obtain any information about this.)

(b) On January 16th, Santi Popof, the chief Bulgarian Schoolmaster of Lazaropole, was bound and carried to Dibra, charged with inciting the inhabitants not to obey the order to recognise the Servian instead of the Exarchist ecclesiastical authorities.

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(I have no information about this.)

(c) On January 18th the Authorities sent to Zernovitsa a written order to refer to Bishop Varnava of Dibra in all ecclesiastical matters. The same day, the Bulgarian Priest of the village, Daniel Kostof, was assaulted whilst officiating in Church by a Serboman named Vasil Gyorghief (sic), who snatched the chalice from his hands asking him why he recognized Kozma and not Varnava.

(I have no information about this incident. Kozma is the Exarchist Archbishop of Krchevo and Varnava is the Servian Bishop of Dibra.)

(d) On January 23rd, fourteen villagers of Lazaropole were arrested and brought before the Prefect of Dibra for refusing to sign an undertaking to recognize the Servian spiritual supremacy. As they persisted in their refusal, they were imprisoned for five days.

(I have no information about this incident.)

(e) On March 2nd, Elia Efremof and 14 other Bulgars of Zernovitsa were summoned before the Authorities, who asked them whether they realized that in future they must recognize the Servian spiritual supremacy and abstain from Bulgarian propaganda. They replied that they could not renounce their own ecclesiastical authorities, but that they had never taken part in any propaganda. Later they were dismissed by an Official with the words - "You can go and I will give you the celebration out of my 'kurtsa' (sic)".

(I have no information about this incident.)

(f) On March 3rd, the Bulgarian Priests and Schoolmasters of Lazaropole were summoned before the Authorities of Zernovitsa where a detailed enquiry was made as to their training, ordination, stipends, etc. One old Schoolmaster stated

that he received 64 liras a year, whereupon an Official remarked - "You are well paid to become Bulgarian. You are better paid than Passitch."

(g) On January 18th, the Bulgarian Church at Lazaropole was forcibly closed. The Priests were previously told they might continue to officiate if they did so in the name of Varnava. They refused. At Tresanché, too, the Bulgarian Priest has been driven from his Church where a Servian Priest now officiates.

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(I have no information about this.)

(h) On March 18th, the Bulgarian monastery at Krchevo was seized by the Servian Authorities, who evicted the caretaker and other persons.

(This is believed to be true.)

(i) The Bulgarian Archmandrite of Galichnik (Dibra), Pavel Theodosief, has been repeatedly urged by the Servian Bishop Varnava and by the Authorities at Zernovitsa to renounce the Exarch. They offered him 120 liras a year and 5 years' stipend in advance, but he refused. Since then, he has been confined to his house.

(I have no information about this.)

(j) On March 18th, all the men of Lazaropole of 15 years and more were ordered to repair the road between Dibra and Zernovitsa. The Official who gave the order said - "Your mothers were Bulgars and you shall work till you squeal."

(I have no information about this.)

(k) On March 19th, the Mayor of Lazaropole read an order from the Prefect that the Bulgarian word-terminations must be removed within 24 hours from inscriptions on the icons in the village Church. This order was carried out by the Servian Schoolmaster.

(I have no information about this.)

(l) On March 20th, the Authorities at Zernovitsa imposed on the Bulgarian villages of the district a special road-tax of 24 francs for every male over fifteen

years old. Several families were called upon to pay this tax for men who are away serving as volunteers in the Bulgarian armies. They presented a petition for exemption to the chief Official of Zernovitsa who roughly refused their request. The village of Lazaropole alone has 247 men in the Bulgarian forces.

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(I have no information about this, but it is believed that the most monstrous levies are made by the rural communal Officials apparently on their own account. Attempts have been made in many places to wring all sorts of illegal gain out of ruined Moslems returning to burnt-out villages. This Vice-Consulate has frequently brought such cases to the notice of the local Authorities with the result that the attempt has not been persisted in, but the dishonest Officials are never punished.)

(m) On March 22nd, the Authorities of Lazaropole demanded of the inhabitants a sum of 11,432 francs. This tribute was collected by the harshest of methods, the most necessary household effects being confiscated in the case of persons unable to pay.

(I have no information about this.)

(n) On March 24th Angel Stoikof and Sofroni Nikof of Gari applied to the Authorities for permission to find substitutes instead of working personally on the road. The Mayor, who had a grudge against them, reported to the Prefect that they had refused to work. They received 25 lashes each.

(I have no information about this.)

(o) On March 26th, Efstatia Markof and Ivan Panef, Bulgarian Schoolmasters of Lazaropole, were questioned by the authorities as to the number of their pupils and the financial support given by the villages to the Schools. They were also asked how long the village had acknowledged the Exarch. Markof replied - "forty-one years." Panef, not knowing these details, was unable to offer any information.' For that reason he has been in prison ever since.

(I have no information about this.)

(p) On March 25th, the Priests, deacons and Elders of Lazaropole were called upon to show the Church accounts to the Authorities.

(q) On March 23rd, the Bulgarian Schoolmaster and three other Bulgars of Mavrova (Gostivar) were called before the Authorities. Since then, nothing more has been heard of them. To the enquiries of their friends, the Authorities replied - "Possibly they have been killed. These are abnormal times and there are Albanians about." -

(I have no information about this. In my depatch No 1 of January 23rd, the disappearance was reported of another Bulgarian Schoolmaster named Athanas Lutvief of Perlepé.)

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(r) On March 10th, Stevan Dimitrof, the Bulgarian Priest of Sredno-Eghri (Monastir) was accused by the Authorities at Monastir of compelling Patriarchists of the same village to attend the Exarchist Church. The Prefect used the most objectionable language to him, called him a 'Comitaji', and cursed his religion. In the ante-room of the Prefect's office he was struck in the face by Police Officials who warned him not to talk of what had happened on penalty of death. At the same time, Athanas Dimitrof, Mayor of Sredno-Eghri, was charged with the same offence. He, too, on penalty of death was warned not to tell anyone what had happened. As a matter of fact, neither of them had interfered with the Patriarchists.

(I have no information about this.)

(s) On April 21st, the Prefect of Monastir sent for all the Municipal employés of the neighbourhood. They were admitted one by one into his presence and warned not to harbour any outlawed persons and to give notice should any go to their villages. At the same time, the Bulgarian Priest of Kukerechani, Vasil Kolef, was sent for and struck in the face by the Prefect himself for alleged neglect of four Servian families in his parish. He was warned that a repetition of the offence would involve the penalty of death. He was taunted with being a Bulgarian priest and a Comitaji. Another Bulgarian, Secula Georgief, recently employed as a Municipal Official at Mogila (Monastir), was struck so fiercely by the Prefect that a

tooth was knocked out. All these persons were warned on penalty of death not to visit the Bulgarian Archbishop or complain of what had happened. They were dismissed with the words - "If we remain here, you will all become Serbs. If we go, you can become Turks or Gipsies if you like." The Prefect added - "If I remain here, I will make you all rich," which presumably means that he will skin them all and make them beggars (sic.).

(I am unable to confirm this.)

(t) News has been received from Perlepé that Bulgarian ex-Comitajis are being unjustifiably arrested. At Easter, the inhabitants of Perlepé were ordered to decorate their houses with Servian flags. Non- compliance was punished by a fine of 3 francs.

(I am informed that a large number of Bulgarians have of late been arrested on suspicion at Perlepé. About the other statement I have no information. As the military governor of the town is an extreme chauvinist, it is not at all improbable.)

Nº 36

(Confidential)

Vice-Consul Greig to Sir G. Lowther. -

(Received at Foreign Office June 24)

Monastir, June 14, 1913

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report on current events in this district
as follows: -

Albanian Matters

There have been further signs of the activity of Servian propaganda in Albania, in connection with which Fehim Bey Zavalani is about to undertake another journey, passing through Dibra, the Mat region, Kroia, Tirana, Durazzo, and Elbassan.

M. Balutchitch, whose previous movements were reported in my despatch No 33 of the 30th May, has again been here after spending a few days in Bucharest. The purpose of his visit to this town was to confer with Fehim Bey. He left on the 12th instant for Salonica, and his destination is believed to be Durazzo, and perhaps Berat.

Amongst the objects of these journeys - apart from the general purpose of promoting a Serbo-Albanian Entente and incidentally combatting Austrian, Italian, and Bulgarian intrigues- are, I believe, the following: -

To reconcile Essad Pasha with the authorities at Valona (and perhaps to obtain his inclusion in the Cabinet as Minister of War, in which case it will be interesting to see what employment is reserved for Mehmed Pasha Kalkandelen).

To restrain the growing rivalry between the authorities at Valona, Elbassan, Pekinj, and Berat on the one hand, and Tirana, Kavaja, and Durazzo on the other.

Another aim is attributed to them by my Austrian colleague, namely, to obtain support for the candidature of a member of the Servian Royal family as Prince or Governor of Albania.

From the representative in Monastir of the Servian Ministry of Foreign Affairs I learn that, if such a candidature is put forward, it would probably be in the person of Prince George.

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It is the intention of the Serbs to appoint consuls as soon as possible in the Albanian centres, to enhance the importance of Elbassan, and to remove from their path by purchase or assassination any uncompromising foreign agents. Ismail Kemal and Dervish Khima have been indicated to me as specially marked out for Servian vengeance.

Monastir, if in Servian hands, will be a most natural centre for carrying on much of this propaganda, and the possession of the great marketing centres of Djakova, Prizrend, Kalkandelen, and Dibra will subject the population and landowners of half Northern Albania, including valuable agricultural regions, to Servian good-will as completely as Hellenic ownership of Gorcha would place extensive Albanian districts in the south at the mercy of Greece.

There is something peculiarly Albanian in the position of Fehim Bey Zavalani, who ranks among the leading Nationalists, suffered imprisonment by the Turks for upholding with considerable courage and tenacity the very cause whose secrets he was almost certainly paid all the time to betray to Austria, and has now become an instrument to Servian ends. In his own words he is at present "on good terms with the Serbs, and also with the Bulgars, Austrians, Italians, and Greeks, and has really nothing at heart except the independence of his country."

On the 12th instant he called at this vice-consulate and asked me to inform His Majesty's Government that the Albanians of Macedonia desire, through him, to express their wish for British protection.

Whilst undertaking to communicate his statement to my superintending authorities, I held out no hope of a possibility of its being considered.

The following information has been received as to the distribution of the Albanian gendarmerie:

	Men
Elbassan, where Akif Pasha is mutessarif	250
Berat, where Aziz Pasha Virion is mutessarif	100
Durazzo, where Hamid Bey Toptan is mutessarif	200
Kavaja, where Shahsivar Bey is kaimakam	100
Pekinj, where Demir Pasha is kaimakam	100
Shaiak, where 'Umr Bey is kaimakam	100
Kroia, where 'Umr Agha is kaluakam	100
Tirana, where Refik Bey Toptan is kaimakam	100

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The Prefect of Monastir informs me that several Christian families from the villages of Hosheshtë, Nitsa, and Vefché, in the Mokra district, which is just outside the Servian limit of occupation west of Lake Ochrida, having been robbed or threatened by bands of Moslem brigands, have taken refuge at Ochrida and applied to him for Servian protection.

The position of isolated Christian communities in Albania is undeniably precarious as long as no stable administration exists, but the present incidents, which are a source of obvious satisfaction to the Servian authorities, are not, in my opinion, of much importance, especially as there has been no loss of life so far as is known.

It is also reported that a body of gendarmes sent from Elbassan to arrest a Moslem brigand, of Grabova, in the Vrchan region (half-way between Elhassan and Gorcha) has met with a reverse, losing an officer and two men.

The Bulgars and Moslems

The hostility of the Bulgarian element continues to be of a passive order, but it is developing on significant lines in spite of repressive measures. Bands are reported to be forming in Ochrida and Perlepé districts, and several ex-comitajis of this town are believed to have taken to the hills.

The Serbs are retaliating by the formation of a body of unmounted gendarmes, recruited locally, and described as "Frontier Gendarmerie" consisting mainly of Moslems. The number of men aimed at is 4,000, to be formed into four battalions.

It is understood that Servian officers will be attached to them, and that use will be made of available sergeants and corporals formerly in the Ottoman gendarmerie. The rate of pay, exclusive of subsistence allowance, will be as follows

	Fr.
Privates	20 a-month
Corporals	28 a-month
Officers	[?]

Up to the present about 1,500 men are believed to have been enrolled, mainly from Ochrida, Struga, and Ressna.

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Although chiefly of a Moslem character, the force includes a few Bulgars. But this extraordinary ill-timed attempt to enrol Exarchists has met with little success and is a further source of friction. Two villages in the Perlepé region- Coniari and Kadinoselo- went so far as to inform the authorities that nothing would induce them to provide volunteers for service against their brothers in the Bulgarian army. Consequently, both places have been visited with wholesale arrests.

There is reason to believe that even in the Moslem villages the call for gendarmerie recruits has not everywhere met with a very willing response. A deputation of Moslems from Kanatlartsi, a hamlet near Perlepé, has appeared at this vice-consulate to complain that one-fourth of their men have been "forcibly" enrolled.

Searches for arms and seditious correspondence are being carried out in Bulgarian houses throughout the district as energetically as ever. At Ochrida, one Yaki Tchaoulef, father of the Voivode Petrush Tchaoulef, has been arrested owing to the discovery in his house of four live bombs and other weapons. The bombs, however, although in good condition, are said not to be of very recent manufacture.

The Bulgarian Archbishop of Monastir tells me that the wholesale arrest and deportation of Exarchists in the Greek districts continues. From other sources I learn that bands are forming in the Castoria district.

A certain coldness has recently been noticed between the Austrian consulate and the Bulgarian Archbishop. It is ascribed to the refusal of the latter to push Exarchist propaganda to the lengths advocated by the former.

Austrian endeavours, having failed to associate the Moslems with the Bulgarian cause, are now directed towards fostering a desire amongst the local population for autonomy. Considerable success has been achieved amongst the Moslems in that direction.

Almost any Moslem of Monastir, if asked what government he desires, will reply: "Autonomy, and, failing that, the Serbs."

Servia, Turkey, and Roumania

There have been some local reflections of the negotiations of the Servian Government with Roumania and Turkey.

M. Kirkovitch, a former inspector of schools at Monastir, has returned to this town after visiting Bucharest and Constantinople, where he has been employed on a special mission.

At Constantinople his dealings seem to have been mainly with Eyyoub Sabri Bey, Secretary-General of the Committee of Union and Progress. The exact nature of the negotiations has not been disclosed, but there is apparent satisfaction at their result in official circles.

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Somewhat in confirmation of this, my Roumanian colleague, whose relations with the Servian authorities has recently undergone a most pronounced improvement, tells me that his Government, whilst maintaining good relations with Bulgaria, is bent on a closer understanding with Servia and the Triple Entente, and that it recognises the danger of a too Austrophil policy, which may end by leaving it at the mercy of its southern neighbour or of a group of Slav States.

Various Items of Information

(a.) The Birthday of His Majesty the King

The reception held at this vice-consulate on the 3rd instant was attended, amongst others, by the Consular Corps, the principal Servian officials, the Orthodox and Exarchist Archbishops, the Mufti, the Hodjas of the chief Mosques, the Sheikh of the Rifai "Tekyé," and by representatives of the most important Moslem families. Delegations from the Moslem villages of Ramna, Lera, Dolentsi, and Kadjan, where relief has recently been distributed, were also present.

(b.) Military Information

No further information has been obtainable as to the movements of the troops of the 1st Morava Division, which recently left Monastir for Kuprilu, except that the 2nd regiment and the 16th regiment are east of the Vardar.

It is believed that a IIIrd Ban regiment will soon arrive here.

(c.) Administrative Measures

There has been a very necessary all-round dismissal of communal officials, mainly Bulgars, in the Struga, Ochrida, Resna, and Gijavat districts, where they were preying outrageously on the Moslems. They have been replaced mainly by Moslem Albanians and some Serbs.

I have, &c.

C. A. Greig