

FRONTIER BETWEEN TURKEY AND IRAK.

Geneva, September 22nd 1925.

Letter from the British Representative.

Note by the Secretary-General.

The following letter from Mr. Amery, British Representative, dated September 21st, 1925, is circulated to the Council.

Geneva, 21st September 1925.

To the Secretary-General.

Sir:

I have the honour to request that the Council may meet at as early a date as possible to consider the correspondence ending with my letter to you of the 19th September on the subject of the deportation of Christians from the districts adjacent to the Brussels line.

It will be noted that in addition to the villages of Sinat and Dershish, which lie to the south of the Brussels line, it is now reported that Christians have been deported from Sul and Nuzur which are also to the south of the Brussels line. His Majesty's Government feel strongly that quite apart from any humanitarian considerations such as are necessarily involved in the forcible deportation of these unhappy people at this time of year in a cold and inhospitable region, the action of the Turkish Government in deporting Christians from villages which lie between the Brussels line and the frontier claimed by His Majesty's Government is unquestionably a movement "which might modify . . . . the present state of the territories of which the final fate will depend upon the decision to be reached on the subject of the frontier." In any case it is surely not open to question that the forcible deportation by the Turkish Government of the inhabitants of villages which actually lie to the south of the Brussels line is a violation of article 3, paragraph 2, of the Treaty of Lausanne. In view of the statement made by His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey that the assertions made by me in my letter of the 15th September are absolutely devoid of foundation it /

it appears necessary that the Council should immediately take steps to satisfy themselves whether or not the reports of the High Commissioner for Iraq are founded on fact. It will be within the recollection of the Council that both at the time of <sup>the</sup> Brussels meeting and also at the commencement of the present meeting various charges and counter-charges were made by the British and Turkish Governments as to alleged violations of the status quo by the other party to the undertaking given in Article 3 of the Treaty of Lausanne. In order to reduce to a minimum the possibility of similar charges being made between now and the next session of the Council, when it is to be hoped that the question of the Turco-Iraq frontier will be finally and definitively settled, I have the honour to suggest that the Council of the League of Nations should forthwith despatch such representative or representatives to the locality of the Brussels line as may be required for the purpose of investigating so far as possible the charges which have already been made by the two Governments and of reporting immediately to the Council in the event of any similar occurrence in the future. I have the honour to assure the Council that His Majesty's Government and the Iraq Government would welcome the presence of such a representative on their side of the Brussels line and would afford him every assistance towards the fulfilment of this task.

(Sgd) L.S. AMERY.