

Private

ack. N.G.

14, Great College Street,
Westminster.

August 1914.

Dear Sir,

There are very many thousands of people in the country, who are profoundly dissatisfied with the general course of policy which preceded the war. They are feeling that a dividing point has come in national history, that the old traditions of secret and class diplomacy, the old control of foreign policy by a narrow clique, and the power of the armament organisations have got henceforth to be combatted by a great and conscious and directed effort of the democracy. *(as they feel himself)*

We are anxious to take measures which may focus this feeling, and help to direct public policy on broad lines which may build up on a more secure and permanent foundation the hopes which have been shattered for our generation in the last month.

The objects we have in view are:-

- (1) To secure real parliamentary control over foreign policy, and to prevent it being again shaped in secret and forced upon the country as an accomplished fact.
- (2) When peace returns, to open direct and deliberate negotiations with democratic parties and influences on the Continent, so as to form an international understanding depending on popular parties rather than on governments.
- (3) To aim at securing such terms that this war will not either through the humiliation of the defeated nation or an artificial

re-arrangement of frontiers merely become the starting point for new national antagonisms and future wars.

When the time is ripe for it, but not before the country is secure from danger, meetings will be organised and speakers provided. But the immediate need is in our opinion to prepare for the issue of books, pamphlets and leaflets dealing with the course of recent policy and suggesting the lines of action for the future. Measures are being taken to prepare these at once, and they will be ready for publication when the proper opportunity occurs.

For this purpose we shall be glad of any subscription which you can spare, and would like to know if you are willing to support us in this effort, in order that we may communicate with you as occasion arrives.

There may be other ways in which voluntary help may be of value. We shall be glad of the names and addresses of any of your friends who you think are likely to share the views expressed in this letter.

Yours faithfully,

E. Mansay Macdonald

Charles Trevelyan

Norman Angell

H. D. Morrell

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer (pro tem)

P.S. Replies should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary.

We the undersigned desire to urge that in the interests of international peace the question of the disposal of Western Thrace should be reconsidered. The cession of Western Thrace to Greece was unjust and unwise for two reasons :-

- (1) Two thirds of the population were bitterly opposed to it. During the French occupation of this province, they clearly expressed their views, and since the Greek occupation a large proportion of them have taken refuge in Bulgaria.
- (2) It cut off Bulgaria from her only territorial outlet to the Aegean Sea, without which her economic life cannot be fully developed, and this although Bulgaria had signed the Peace Treaty on the strength of the understanding that this territory should be placed under International control. Without such access Bulgaria will be thrown back on the Central Powers for the provision of its economic needs.

A commercial outlet through Greek territory can never be satisfactory, owing to the intense hostility which has always prevailed and which, unfortunately, still prevails between Bulgarians and Greeks.

The present situation in Greece, and the widespread demand among our Allies for a revision of the Treaty of Sevres, appear to us to provide a favourable opportunity for making a fresh settlement in Thrace, and we respectfully urge upon H.M.G. and the League of Nations the desirability, in the interests of future peace, of satisfying the legitimate aspirations of the large non-Greek majority, both Christian and Moslem.

V. A. Macdonald

No. E 4974/1359/44

Foreign Office,
SW.1.

June 24th 1924.

Sir:-

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Ramsay Macdonald to acknowledge the receipt of your letter (HB/BEW) of the 4th instant, in which it is suggested that His Majesty's Government should nominate the Armenian (Lord Mayor's) Fund as a special body to deal with the scheme recently put forward for the settlement, in Transcaucasia, of certain Armenian Refugees now in Greece and elsewhere, and to make a public appeal for funds for the scheme with official authorisation.

2. I am to inform you in reply that, provided that it is understood and made clear that His Majesty's Government can accept no responsibility whatever for the success of the scheme or for the disposal of any funds which may be subscribed, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald is prepared to agree to the proposal put forward in your letter under reply.

3. It should be added, however, that from the very little information that His Majesty's Government have been able to obtain regarding the Sardarabad settlement scheme, they are by no means satisfied that the proposal has been properly investigated or is capable of practical execution. It is on account of their misgivings on this score that they must decline to accept any moral or financial responsibility for the project.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

The Secretary,
Armenian (Lord Mayor's) Fund,
96, Victoria Street,
SW.1.

air fees for evidence

C. HEDDITT ROAD,
HAMPSTEAD, N.W.



2 April 1923

My Dear Noel

I have only got yours
of the 27th. re. America.
There is not a word of truth
in the reported antagonism
in the Labour Party to the
American claims. We have
done our best for the Americans,
& though some of us think
that the Americans have
contributed considerably to their
own present distress that as a

matter of fact has never
influenced the Party in its
attempts to get some justice done
to the Americans. I should require
to have very good evidence before I
believe that the Foreign Office is
responsible for such an untrue
statement.

Yours always

Wm. M. Macdonald