

26/11/25.

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NOTE VERBALE.

The High Commissioner considers it desirable that the Commission should be made aware of certain encroachments by Turkish forces across the status quo line which Turkey and 'Iraq are bound to observe, with effect from November 15th last, in accordance with the decision of the Council of the League of Nations given at Brussels.

Early in January, patrols from the Turkish post at Deshtan visited the villages of Sarzir and Doskan and passed close to Halwa. These villages are marked on the map as Serseri, Doskia and Halve respectively. In response to a protest from the Qaimmaqam at Amadia, the Turkish Officer Commanding at Chal asserted that these villages belonged to the Turks. The Qaimmaqam replied that these villages are, according to the map authorized by the Council of the League of Nations, at present in 'Iraq territory, and that if Turkish patrols continued to visit them the 'Iraq Government would have to demand the punishment of the officer responsible. The matter was reported to the British Government, who has instructed their representative at Constantimople to address a strong protest to the Turkish Government, and to insist on their issuing immediate instructions to their local commanders forbidding them to send patrols into territory which is unquestionably on the 'Iraq side of the line fixed by the Council of the League of Nations at Brussels in October.

In the meantime the Turkish Commander has replied to the Qaimmaqam's letter demanding :-

- (1) A return of taxes collected from Sarzir.

- (2) A return of rifles and a fine which were taken from the Mudir of Marofan, in the Chal Nahiyah, for carrying arms when visiting Kara, which is well within 'Iraq territory.
- (3) That 'Iraq police should not visit the villages in question.

This further development is being reported to the British Government.