

1922

E. AFRICA
MALTA
CYPRUS

661

51958

FROM
FOREIGN

DATE
18TH OCTOBER 1922

RE
15 OCT 22

FOR CIRCULATION :-

SUBJECT

Mr. Elliot
Mr. Strachey
Mr.
Mr. Grindle
Sir H. Lambert
Sir H. Reay
Sir J. Masterman Smith
Mr. Wood
Mr. Churchill

REFUGEES FROM SMYRNA

States as to difficulty of finding suitable accommodation and enquires as to possibility of finding accommodation for a small number in E.A.

Previous Paper

See 7506

See PO/5195/22 Cyprus

24 Oct 22

Subsequent Paper

MINUTES

I pass this through the files as there
are some hesitations as to whether
it will have any effect that
you have proposed to send
of these people.

Apert from the fact that they
are not Greeks, we have nothing
to show that there will be any
benefit to them in the
regard as to the matter of
is called for the matter. There
has as many with numbers as
can do with it proposed to
I am, Sir, yours truly

RECORDS OFFICE, LONDON

In any further communication
on this subject, please quote

No. B 11089/27/44.

and address.

not to use stamps by hand.

but to

"The Under-Secretary of State,"
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1

51953

RE 13.OCT.22

633
FOREIGN OFFICE. S.W.1.

18th October, 1922.

mediate
Sir,

I am directed by the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the problem of finding suitable accommodation for refugees in the Near East is causing him serious preoccupation.

2. Over five hundred thousand refugees have already reached Greece from Asia Minor, and His Majesty's Minister at Athens points out that it is not possible to accommodate in Greek territory the further half million who are now leaving Thrace and Constantinople, without risking a serious calamity. On the other hand, it is not possible for these people, most of whom were deeply compromised on the side of the Allies during the war, to remain under Turkish rule, from which many of them have already fled more than once. It has now been suggested that a certain small number of the refugees, more especially those who, not being of Greek race, have no claim on the Greek Government, should be accommodated in certain British colonies, more especially in East Africa.

3. I am to request that Lord Curzon may be furnished with Mr. Churchill's observations on this subject at an early date.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Laurel Orphant

Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

~~M. ...~~
Mr. Substantly

~~Get the ...~~
...
...

Draft revised after speaking
with you. B/7586/18 appears
to be the paper to which Sir
H. Read refers, but we did not
write to the F.O. on that paper,
and it does not seem advisable
to make use of the argument
on it in this connection.

E.L. 2.2.10.12

See Sir
...
Sir H. Read

CO 2505 1206

F.O./51956/22
E.A. Malta, Cyprus,

665

24

DOWNING STREET,

24 October, 1922.

Sir,

DRAFT.

THE U.S.OF S.
FOREIGN OFFICE.

MINUTE.

Mr. Jewell 21.10.22.

Mr. De Larosche 21.10.22.

Mr. Bottomley 21.10.22.

Mr. Ellis 23/12

Mr. Strachey 23

Mr. H. Read 23

Mr. J. Masterton Smith

Mr. Wood

Mr. Churchill

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Churchill to acknowledge the receipt of your letter (No. E. 11699/27/44) of the 18th of October, regarding the question of finding accommodation for refugees from Asia Minor, Thrace and Constantinople.

2. With regard to the suggestion that accommodation might be found for some of the non-Greek refugees in certain British Colonies, more especially in East Africa, I am to request you to inform the Margues Curson of Kedleston that the Secretary of State regrets that he would be unable to contemplate any introduction of these persons into the Dependencies in Eastern Africa, where

For curson.

E/7586/18 EAF. is presumably the paper referred to in Sir H. Read's minute; but there is no draft to F.O. on it.

M.J. 21.10.22.

omit: we did want them if unorganised.
C.S.

there

there is no suitable land available for their settlement, and where the prospects of their being able to support themselves without assistance from the local Governments (which ^{are certainly} could not in ^{any case be given}) must be regarded as extremely doubtful.

3. It would in any event be necessary for the Secretary of State to consult the Governments concerned before he could agree to such a proposal, ~~but the prospects of their concurrence being obtained are so remote that he regrets that at present advice he would not feel justified in approaching them.~~

4. I am to add that there can be no question of providing a permanent home for these refugees in Cyprus or in Malta, where the Governments have little or no land available for alienation, and there is but little demand for labour.

I am etc.,

(Signed) H. J. R.