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TEWFIK PACHA, Ottoman Minister of Foreign Affairs
to M. BAPST, Counsellor to the Embassy of the
French Republic at Constantinople.

November 6, 1901.

I have received the letter which you have addressed to me on the 2nd instant, communicating the new demands which the Government of the French Republic has decided to formulate as a compensation for the delay in the definitive settlement of the four claims which have been the object of the notes of H. E. M. Constans.

These new demands of the Government of the Republic, as formulated in the annexes of your communication, contain the following four points :

(1.) The recognition of the legal existence of the French schools, or those under French protection, respect for the freedom of operation, and the maintenance in their favor of the customs immunities accorded to religious orders.

(2.) The recognition of the legal existence of the churches, chapels, hospitals, dispensaries, orphanages, asylums and other French establishments or those under French protection, their exemption from the real estate tax, and the maintenance in their favor of the customs immunities accorded to religious orders.

(3.) The authorization of the construction and enlargement or repair of the establishments mentioned in the list annexed to your communication, and their legal recognition in their new dimensions.

(4.) The adoption, for the future, of a new procedure for the formalities of the official authorization for such establishments, a procedure according to which the Sublime Porte should formulate its written objections with the reasons therefor during a delay of two months from the date of the official demand of the Embassy on this subject, failing which the authorization demanded and the exemptions consequent upon it shall be considered as acquired.

These new demands having been made the object of deliberations of the Council of Ministers, and the decision arrived at on this subject having just been sanctioned by Imperial Iradé, I hasten, in reply to your above mentioned communication of the 2nd of November to let you know what has been adopted by the Sublime Porte:

(1.) The Imperial Government pledges itself to continue the recognition of the legal existence of such of the French schools, or those under French protection, mentioned in the list annexed to your communication as are already recognized in the Empire, and it will accord the same official recognition to those of these establishments which to the present time are unauthorized. It pledges itself also to extend to these establishments the benefits of customs exemptions in conformity with the regulations for customs immunities of such establishments.

(2.) The Imperial Government pledges itself to continue the recognition of the legal existence of such of the French churches, chapels, hospitals, dispensaries, orphanages, asylums, and other establishments, and those under French protection, mentioned in the list annexed to your communication, as are already offi-

cially recognized, and it accords the same official recognition to those of these establishments which to the present time are unauthorized. It pledges itself furthermore to extend to these establishments the benefits of exemption from the real estate tax in conformity with established usage and precedents, and from customs dues, in conformity with the regulations touching customs immunities for such establishments.

(3.) The Imperial Government authorizes the construction, enlargement or repair of the establishments mentioned in the list annexed to your communication, and recognizes their legal existence in their new dimensions.

(4.) The adoption of a new procedure concerning scholastic, religious and other establishments to be created in the future, as also those for which enlargements or repairs calling for special examination are proposed, the Imperial Government takes a formal obligation to confer on this subject with the French Embassy as soon as official relations shall be re-established between the two countries.

Full satisfaction having thus been given to all the demands relating to French interests, the Sublime Porte does not doubt that the French Government will give to its Embassy at Constantinople the necessary instructions, so that the two countries, which have always been united by ties of sincere friendship, can resume without delay their official relations.

Copy of a note addressed to the Ministry of Public Instruction. (Translation).

25 Redjeb, 1319.

24 Teshrini Ewel, 1317.

A demand having been made for the recognition of the legal existence of the schools administered by private individuals and the clergy, which are placed under the subjection or the protection of France, and the application to the schools of the customs franchises already accorded to religious congregations :

It results from an *Irade* of H. I. M. the Sultan, promulgated in consequence of a decision of the Council of Ministers, that there is accorded to these establishments the official authorization ; it is natural to authorize, after inquiry, and conformably to the usages and regulations, the schools, churches, and benevolent establishments which shall be hereafter constructed ; the execution of these formalities will depend on subsequent deliberations.

By consequence, and on condition of the application of the above mentioned formalities to the establishments which shall be hereafter constructed :

The schools placed under the subjection and protection of France, already recognized by the Ottoman Government, and figuring on the list, of which a legalized copy is annexed, will continue to be legally recognized.

With respect to those figuring on the list which

have not as yet obtained the authorization, they will be equally recognized officially in the above mentioned manner, and will enjoy the customs franchises, conformably to the regulation existing in this matter.

The necessary communications and instructions having been made to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior, to the Administration of the Indirect Contributions, and to the Imperial Divan, I beg that you will use the necessary haste in what concerns your honorable Ministry.

(Conformed to the original).

(SEAL).

The Minister of Foreign Affairs.

TEWFIK.

TEWFIK PACHA, Ottoman Minister of Foreign Affairs
to M. BAPST, Counsellor of the Embassy of the
French Republic at Constantinople.

November 9th, 1901.

Following my letters of the 4th and 6th instant, relating to the last demands of the Government of the French Republic, and in conformity with the communication which M. Rouet, First Dragoman of the Embassy made yesterday, I have the pleasure to inform you of the complete decision of the Sublime Porte, which has just been sanctioned by Imperial Iradé.

In that which concerns point 4 of my aforesaid letter of the 6th instant, relating to the procedure which will be followed in future for the construction, repair or enlargement of French establishments, or those under French protection, the procedure will be as follows :

“Whenever in the future, there are to be founded or constructed scholastic religious or other similar establishments by the French, or by French protégés, in places other than quarters exclusively inhabited by Moslems, the French Embassy will communicate to the Imperial Minister of Foreign Affairs, besides the regulation details, the name of the teachers and directors (female teachers and directresses) and the object of the foundation. It will be the same whenever repairs or enlargements of the same establishments are

to be undertaken. In case, after a delay of six months after the notice given by the Embassy, the Sublime Porte shall not have formulated in writing its objections with reasons therefor, the authorization demanded, and the exemptions resulting from it, shall be considered as acquired. If any opposition is made by the Sublime Porte during the delay above fixed, it shall be made the subject of a conference between the Embassy and the Imperial Minister of Foreign Affairs, who shall together seek to arrive as soon as possible at an agreement, taking into consideration all arguments pro and con.

With respect to the Lorando claim, it has been decided to proceed, with reference to this claim, in the same manner and with the same conditions as those reached in the Tubini claim.

I believe I ought to inform you at the same time, that, in order to follow up the agreement arrived at on points 1, 2 and 3, mentioned in my letter of the 6th instant, the Grand Vizieriat has just addressed the necessary instructions to the Imperial Ministry of Finances and of Public Instruction, as also to the General Administration of Indirect Contributions, and to the Governors-General, so that they may conform to the agreement entered into on this subject. You will find annexed the copies of these grand-vizierial communications, also the three certified lists of these establishments, conformed to those in my Department.

Accept etc. . . .

TEWFIK.

Copy of a note addressed to the Ministry of the Interior.
(Translation.)

25 Redjeb, 1319.

24 Teshrini Ewel, 1317.

A demand having been made for the recognition of the legal existence of the schools administered by private individuals and the clergy who are subjects and protégés of France, also of the hospitals and religious establishments placed under the subjection and the protection of France, for the delivery of the necessary Firmans for the repair and construction of the establishments destroyed or damaged during the troubles, for the application to the schools of the customs franchises, already accorded to religious congregations, and the exemption from real estate tax of hospitals, dispensaries, orphanages and asylums for the poor:

There results from an Iradé of His Majesty the Sultan, promulgated in consequence of a decision of the Council of Ministers, that there is accorded to these establishments the official authorization; it is natural to deliver, after inquiry, and conformably to usages and rules, the necessary authorization to the schools, churches and pious foundations which shall be hereafter constructed; the execution of these last formalities will depend on subsequent deliberations.

By consequence, and on condition of applying the above mentioned formalities to institutions to be constructed hereafter:

(1.) The schools placed under the subjection or the protection of France, already recognized by the Ottoman Government, and figuring on the list, of which a legalized copy is annexed, will continue to be legally recognized.

Those figuring on the list, which have not thus far received authorization, will be recognized officially in the above mentioned manner, and will enjoy the customs franchises, conformably to the regulation.

(2.) The churches, chapels, hospitals, dispensaries, orphanages and asylums for the poor whether placed under the subjection or the protection of France, already officially recognized, and figuring on the list of which a legalized copy is annexed, will continue to be legally recognized.

With respect to the establishments which have not thus far obtained authorization, they will be officially recognized in the above mentioned way, and will enjoy the customs franchises, by virtue of the rule for the franchise, and of the rule relating to real estate taxes, and conformably to the usages and precedents in force;

(3.) It is permitted to construct, enlarge or restore the establishments figuring on the list, of which a legalized copy is annexed, and the legal existence of those establishments will be recognized in the limits of their future dimensions. Vizierial orders will be given for the regular issue of firmans to such of these establishments as, after inquiry, shall have been found not to have official authorization, and with respect to the others, the authorization demanded will be given.

The necessary communications and instructions having been made to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of Public Instruction, and of Finances, to the Adminis-

tration of Indirect Contributions and to the Imperial Divan, I beg you to use all necessary urgency in that which regards your honorable Ministry.

(Conformed to the original.)

(SEAL.)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs.

TEWFIK.

Copy of a note addressed to the Administration of the Indirect Contributions. (Translation.)

25 Redjeb, 1319.

24 Teshrini Ewel, 1317.

A demand having been made for the recognition of the legal existence of the schools administered by private individuals and the clergy, who are placed under the subjection and the protection of France, as also that of the hospitals and religious establishments placed under the subjection and the protection of France, for the delivery of the firmans necessary for the repair and construction of the establishments which have been destroyed or damaged during the troubles; for the application to the schools of the customs franchises already accorded to religious congregations, and the exemption from the real estate taxes of hospitals, dispensaries, orphanages and asylums for the poor;

It results from an Iradé of H. I. M. the Sultan, promulgated in consequence of a decision of the Council of Ministers, that there is accorded to these establishments the official authorization; it is natural to deliver, after inquiry, and conformably to the usages and rules, the necessary authorization to the schools, churches and pious foundations which shall be hereafter constructed; the execution of these formalities will depend on subsequent deliberations.

In consequence, and on condition of the application of the above mentioned formalities to the establishments hereafter constructed:

(1.) The schools placed under the subjection and the protection of France, and which have been recognized by the Ottoman Government, and figuring on the list, of which a legalized copy is annexed, will continue to be legally recognized.

Those figuring on the list, which have not thus far obtained authorization, will be recognized officially in the above mentioned manner, and will enjoy the customs franchises, conformably to the regulation.

(2.) The churches, chapels, hospitals, dispensaries, orphanages and asylums for the poor, whether placed under the subjection or the protection of France, which have been already officially recognized, and which figure on the list of which a legalized copy is annexed, will continue to be legally recognized.

With respect to the establishments which have not thus far obtained authorization, they will be officially recognized in the manner above mentioned, and will enjoy the customs franchises, by virtue of the regulation concerning the franchise, and of the regulation relating to the real estate taxes, and conformably to usages and precedents in force;

The necessary communications and instructions having been made to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of the Interior, of Public Instruction and of Finance, and to the Imperial Divan, I beg that you will use the necessary urgency in what concerns your honorable Ministry.

(Copy conformed to the original.)

(SEAL).

The Minister of Foreign Affairs.

TEWFIK.

M. BAPST, Chargé d'affaires of France at Constantinople to TEWFIK PACHA, Ottoman Minister of Foreign Affairs.

PERA, November 10th, 1901.

I have communicated without delay to Paris, to H. E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the contents of your letter of yesterday evening, and I have assured him at the same time that the official pieces annexed to that letter furnish all the desirable guarantees for execution.

In response to that communication, I am charged to notify your Excellency that the French Government takes note *vis-à-vis* with the Imperial Government :

(1.) Of the recognition of the legal existence of the French schools, and schools under French protection, actually existing (list No 1, certified by your Excellency) and the engagement to extend to them the benefit of customs immunities, conformably to the conventions in force relating to these immunities :

(2.) Of the recognition of the legal existence of the French establishments, and establishments under French protection; consecrated to beneficence or to worship, and actually existing (list No 2, certified by your Excellency) and of their exemption from the real estate tax, conformably to established usage and precedents, and of the conferring on the aforesaid establishments of the customs immunities foreseen by the conventions in force :

(3.) Of the authorization to construct, enlarge, or repair a certain number of French establishments or those under French protection, mentioned in list No 3, certified by your Excellency, and of the recognition of their legal existence in their future dimensions :

(4.) Finally the engagement to consider as legally authorized, with the benefit of all the exemptions and immunities flowing from this authorization, the future creations or constructions of scholastic, religious or other similar establishments, by Frenchmen or French protégés, in quarters other than those inhabited exclusively by Moslems, and also the repair or future enlargement of establishments analogous to those already existing, if within a delay of six months, to be reckoned from the notice given by the Embassy, the Sublime Porte has not formulated in writing its objections, with reasons therefor.

These four points being definitely acquired, the French Government charges me to let your Excellency know that it is ready to re-establish diplomatic relations, and it authorizes me to act hereafter in the capacity of Chargé d'affaires.

I will, therefore, have the honor, unless your Excellency sends me contrary advices, to visit the Sublime Porte tomorrow, Monday, in the afternoon, to take the rank and quality of Chargé d'affaires of the French Republic.

As a consequence of the decision of the French Government, Monsieur the Rear Admiral Caillard has been invited to quit Mitylene.

