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~~From Montenegro~~

REPORT

of the

Interallied Commission

in

EASTERN MACEDONIA

FIRST PART

new edition?







REPORT

The Interallied Commission visited Eastern Macedonia in so far as the means of communication and the state of the roads permitted; it visited successively each of the departments composing the Province and verified on the spot, as much as feasible, all the facts pointed out.

The number of witnesses heard was great; the hearing was carried out with the constant desire to find out the truth and to be on guard against interested testimony; also against mistakes voluntary and involuntary, against exaggerations, misrepresentations or illusions.

Certain of the testimony was immediately discarded as clearly lacking in sincerity or truthfulness, and the commission has only made note of the facts which appeared to it clearly established. In so far as it was possible it has always verified the information supplied by the administrative and municipal authorities and has given under reserve those testimonies whose verification was not possible.


In a country where the inhabitants are grouped into religious communities the Commission has never neglected to examine the various heads of these communities, Orthodox, Jewish and Mussulman.

The Commission has not been satisfied with vague and simply numerical information concerning the deaths and deportations; it has insisted and the more often obtained with the assistance of the magistrates and the secretaries attached to it, the drawing up of the lists containing the names, thus insuring the verification.

The occupation covered 493 localities; owing to the difficulty of communication, only 330 were examined.

The situation of Eastern Macedonia is peculiar. This province was not conquered by the Bulgarian Armies after victorious fight but it was occupied without opposition and with the consent, or one might better say — thanks to the complicity — of a Government with which even the Diplomatic relations had not been broken; the Government of Sofia stated that this friendly and temporary occupation could not be considered of such a nature as to modify the intercourse between the two nations.

One would therefore be led to think at first sight that the violation of the « rights of man » imputed to the Bulgarian Army was only committed after June 1917, when Greece declared war on her secular enemy. This would not only be a great mistake, but would also show total ignorance of the hypocrisy and the real intentions of Bulgaria.



When penetrating into Eastern Macedonia the Cabinet of Sofia was convinced that this country which they coveted for so long would remain Bulgarian soil and its sole pre-occupation was to falsify its ethnological character. We shall examine in detail the measures and the means put into action to attain these aims but from now we can state that the occupation was from the very first days cruel, barbarous and destructive. After the declaration of war (June 1917) matters became more serious owing to the wholesale deportations: that is the only difference between the two periods. Our report will make no distinction and will treat of the whole period of the occupation.

The work is divided into two parts :

First Part : General exposé, — condition of the deported, — recapitulation and conclusion.

Second Part : Detailed examination of each district followed by documents and testimonies relating thereto.



FIRST PART

The Orthodox population was thrown into a panic on the announcement of the Bulgarian invasion in the month of August 1916, but the administrative and military authorities were able to allay the fears and stay the exodus of the inhabitants by reassuring proclamations. However, several thousand Greeks crossed the Struma or embarked at Cavalla, and in doing so they acted wisely.

Immediately after the departure of the Greek Gendarmerie and troops the Bulgarian Command threw off its mask and the province was treated not as a friendly but as a conquered country. The old racial hatred and the appetites which had been so carefully dissimulated were boldly unveiled and a regime of oppression began to weigh on the population.

The 7th Division commanded by General Rousseff, occupied the prefecture of Serres;

The 10th Division commanded by General Boulmoff occupied the prefecture of Drama (division Belo Morska);

Later on, General Daneff with headquarters at Drama, became the Military Governor of the Province;

The Comitadji Panitza was director of Public Safety at Drama; the comitadji Chalampos Panboukoff filled the same office at Serres.

It is a fact that the comitadjis were operating side by side with the regular troops; they were not only tolerated but even recognized by the Military Command on whose account they were acting as policemen and counter-spies.

Certain portions of the 58th Turkish Division put in an appearance for a few months but they played a secondary part in the occupation. It is the Bulgarian Command which had the supreme authority over the province, which administered and governed it. The Turks only played the part of accomplices; but in the district of Pangaion it is clear that they are responsible for a large part of the crimes which desolated this district.

Arrests. — Tortures — Terrorism.

The Greek Authorities were from the very first totally ignored; under the pretext of security and counter-spying the Bulgarian Command hastened to persecute the leaders of Hellenic sentiment and spread terror among the population by the brutality with which it treated the arrested and imprisoned persons. The number of arrests is very great; the fact that the testimonies coming from all directions and from all classes of citizens are unanimous excludes all idea of a fraudulent understanding and creates the certainty that the people imprisoned were subjected to veritable tortures. Arrested brutally, they were left without food for several days. Flogging was administered with

barbarity and very few victims received, without losing consciousness, the twenty-five strokes with the cudgel according to the regulations, each one of which tore the flesh and called forth from the victim howls of pain until he fainted and was no more than a gasping and suffering object. At times the tortures were inflicted in secret, at times they took place publicly with a view to impressing the prisoners.

Numerous are those who succumbed to this torture or who are maimed.

Very often, those arrested disappeared, leaving no trace behind them ; the number thereof is imposing. The corpses of a few have been found half buried or in wells where they were thrown.

Amongst those who disappeared is the Metropolitan of Eleftheriopolis ; Monseigneur Germanos was arrested at Pravista on February 11, 1917 on the charge of spying and was imprisoned until the 6th of July 1917 ; at this date Major Samardjieff and Major Giovan Tambakoff accompanied by four soldiers took him out in chains and ever since no one knows what has become of him ; he was probably massacred. During his imprisonment the young boys Christos Epimenidis and George-Lazare Papavassiliou, aged ten and twelve respectively, and the parents of the former were questioned by Lieutenant Teneff and Major Zivetkoff, who tortured them with a view to drawing some admission from them. After laying them on the floor they knelt on their chests : these children left the place spitting blood and both of them died three weeks after their examination.

At Vissotcheni, there were found in a well near the village the decomposed corpses of nine persons among whom was recognized Kariani of Prositchani, a rich tobacco merchant who had been imprisoned and from whom considerable sums of money had been extorted.

At Serres the witness Nicolas Nicolaidis was tortured in the presence of an officer and several soldiers by a non-commissioned officer who forced pieces of wood between the flesh and the finger-nails of his victim.

At Serres four villagers guilty of transgressing the orders as to going about, were hung by their feet from an iron beam and beaten to death ; Captain Georgieff and his adjutant Lieut. Simeonoff were present at the execution.

The same treatment was inflicted on several occasions in the districts of Pravista and of Serres.

At Paleokolis, the witness Elias Petromandili, was laid on his back and beaten on the soles of his feet which were slightly raised.

The collection of and search for hidden arms were in addition to spying a pretext for imprisonments, beating, brutality and murder.

Moreover a certain number of Greeks were interned in Bulgaria on account of their political opinions.

All these acts committed by regular troops and by comitadjis spread terror among the public ; this was aggravated by the fact that some fanatical Mussulmans encouraged by the events took part, too, in the cruelties against the Orthodox Greeks, particularly in the regions of Pangaion and Drama.

The terrorized population was unable to look after its security, owing to the various measures which restricted its liberty ; thus travelling from one place to another was prohibited ; no one was allowed to emerge from his house after dark under any pretext whatsoever and all lights were forbidden. Any infraction of these regulations was punished by imprisonment or beating to such an extent that the neighbours had to

remain deaf to all cries of distress and to all appeals for assistance from those of the inhabitants who had been arrested, robbed or even assassinated during the night.

As a consequence of the above, a fatal insecurity spread throughout the province; thefts, acts of pillage, murders and the seizure of persons became frequent. Many hundreds of persons perished from violent death or disappeared. The convent of Icoissifinici was attacked and pillaged by an armed band, and was despoiled of all its wealth of art and archeology as well as of all its objects of value.

At Indjes, at Tselepliani, at Rachova, etc., many persons were assassinated.

Most often, the effect of any complaint was that the complainant was treated brutally and then sent away.

Arbitrary requisitions.

To the above mentioned persecutions and acts of deliberate lawlessness, in addition to these unwarranted and grave restrictions of the liberty of the individual, further measures were enforced encroaching on the "rights of man" and violating international usage.

The very first act of the Bulgarian Command was to lay hand on all the crops of the province; the cereals which were still unthreshed or in depots, the supplies for the civil and military population and the private stores of provisions were requisitioned or more correctly speaking confiscated. From the one end of the Province to the other, in the large centers of population and in the small villages, as well as in the tchiflics (estates) everything was seized and the population was able to keep but a small quantity of cereals by way of provisions. This was nothing else but direct and pure appropriation throughout the province and not the least record was kept of the articles seized.

As regards the houses and the shops of which the proprietors had fled the Bulgarian Command applied to them the theory of "res nullius" according to which they were declared "Bulgarian property".

The same procedure was applied to the cattle as in the case of the crops: The Bulgarian Command requisitioned all the beasts of burden without ever restoring them and throughout the occupation they drew abundantly and gratuitously on the productive resources of the province; when they retired they took with them all the animals which their precipitous retreat allowed them to carry off.

The reconstitution of the herds and especially the restoration of the animals used for the cultivation of the soil is a problem the urgent solution of which concerns deeply the Hellenic Government.

Corvees.

As well before as after the declaration of war by Greece against Bulgaria, the population was subjected to forced labour in a way which constituted a grave violation of the "rights of man".

The Commission went over the territory under investigation to an extent sufficient to enable it to appreciate the importance and the nature of the work carried out by orders of the Bulgarian Command. The way in which the inquiry was carried out

would in itself justify the confidence which attaches to hundreds of concurrent testimonies.

Many defensive systems erected at successive intervals extend from Fort Ruppel to the mouth of the Strouma; this was the principal front. The fear of an attack from the sea led the Bulgarian Command to erect a line of defense almost continuously from the mouth of the Strouma to the Nestos river often under difficult conditions owing to the nature of the terrain. These temporary fortifications are served by roads and mountain passes and the ensemble of these works of a strategic nature represent a considerable amount of manual labour. This labour was almost all furnished by the civil population under revolting conditions.

It is an accepted principle that the population of an occupied territory must not be forced to contribute labour gratuitously, and *a fortiori* labour of an essentially strategic value. But the violation of this principle seems a small matter in comparison with the material conditions of work imposed upon thousands of persons of all ages, of both sexes and of all social ranks : brutal enrolment — excessive labour accompanied with corporeal punishment at times resulting in the death of the worker — food consisting of a bread ration, an unsavoury broth of chillies and tomatoes — no shelter — no remuneration — thus can we in a few words sum up the situation. Although at first the work was only prescribed for men later on it was imposed on women and children.

During the last month of the occupation there was no need of constraint to obtain workers. It was the only means for women and children to obtain a crust of bread and they undertook the corvée to avoid death. At Cavalla, a mother whose child had just died was seen placing the corpse in a sack depositing it in the street in front of her door and running to work in the trenches in order not to lose the piece of bread which was given in exchange for the long hours of labour.

When no manual labour could be secured on the spot, the inhabitants were forcibly seized in their villages, divided into groups without distinction of age or sex, and thus conducted to the work-yards where they had to work; there they were kept for many weeks sleeping in the open or in improvised shelters, exposed to ill-treatment and privations, entirely at the mercy of their guards whose wicked hatred never diminished.

We have abundant testimonies of the violence with which the workers were recruited, and the brutality with which they were treated; many of them have succumbed to the blows and others have been crippled. Even the women were punished with severity: Chryssanthi Carambella of Podogoriani, her mother and her two sisters, were first stripped bare and then flogged by the soldiers; her young sister Theodora died as a result of the blows. A few cases of rape which took place in connection with the corvees have been ascertained.

Spoliations. Extortions of sums of money, Thefts and Pillaging.

It would be an anomaly to discover that a people which is destitute of the sentiments of liberty and human life would possess the sentiment of respect for the property of others.

The spoliation of the property of the inhabitants of Eastern Macedonia was rampant throughout the Province. The Government, the High Command, the officers, the soldiers, the comitadjis, they all manifested a cupidity which stopped at nothing. The first spoliation consisted in the confiscation of crops, of provisions both public and private, of animals and of gold of which the owners had fled.

The second was the imposition of a forced circulation of depreciated Bulgarian paper money; it was twice less the value of the drachma and the Command ordered that the two moneys should be of the same value. The French gold Napoleon and the Turkish gold lira, which were worth 90 to 110 lews were considered at the value of 20 and 22.70 lews respectively.

The same spoliation took place regarding copper cotton and wool which the Bulgarian Government procured by means of special agents: speculating on famine, she was offering small quantities of maize in exchange for the above articles.

The Bulgarian Command was willing to grant dispensation from work when the persons liable to it were in a position to purchase their exemption. By means of 122.000 lews paid by the Grand Rabbi Abraham Urlocho, the Jews of Cavalla were exempted of the forced labour; those of Drama were similarly exempted by paying a sum total of 200.000 lews. These two sums were paid to General Danell himself and this high personage went so far as to mix a bit of irony in the transaction. One reads with curiosity the receipt of the 200.000 lews in which the honorable military governor « thanks the Jewish Community of Drama for the high sentiments of humanity demonstrated in the present circumstances in favour of the Bulgarian orphans of which the protectors died for the grandeur of the country, and in addition thanks them for the subsidy of the 200.000 lews ».

The agents of the Bulgarian Government gave another proof of their conduct when they carried off by force the inestimable treasures of the Library of Imarette of Cavalla: they gave a receipt stating that they took 832 works and manuscripts (inestimable treasures well known to the world of letters).

There are in addition written records which establish the following facts; the spoliation of the Church of Sarri-Shaban, 8290 lews; the spoliation of the Church of Pravista, 6.000 lews; the spoliation of two depots entrusted to Papathanasiou of Sarri-Shaban, the one for 3.114 drachmas, the other for L. T. 37 and 11.720 drachmas and certain jewels in addition.

But the giving of receipts constitutes an exception, because the Bulgarian Command proceeded to the general pillaging of all furniture and objects of value, cloth, linen, funds of the shops, etc., without handing a single receipt in Cavalla, Drama, Serres, Demir Hissar, etc., and in all the other localities where the carrying off of goods and their transportation was possible. There is no possibility of doubt: the process was carried on cynically and methodically; some houses were used for storing the stolen furniture, special gangs were employed for the removal and packing of goods, special transports were assigned to this purpose, of which Angheloff, a naval ensign, was the Director. The Commission has visited Drama in which it found four depots half filled with furniture as a result of this official pillage. Only time and lack of means of transportation limited the extent of the pillage. Out of about 800.000 ocques of tobacco seized at Cavalla, the Bulgarians were able to carry off and transport 200.000.

No record has been kept of the carrying off of the valuable works of art and architecture from the Convent of Saint John the Prodromos; neither has a record been kept

of the theft of the invaluable treasures of the forty churches of Melenikon which had been zealously kept at Sidirokastro (vidi detailed lists in the published documents).

In this report it is important to note that the thefts committed by the Bulgarian Command to the detriment of the Imarette of Cavalla, of the Convent of Icossifiniciis, of the Convent of Saint John the Prodromos and of the Churches of Melenikon, took place after the archeologist and publicist of Sofia MM. Sisich W. had visited Eastern Macedonia entrusted with the special mission, as it was stated from Sofia, « to proceed to the study of ancient monuments, manuscripts and other objects of art concerning Bulgarian history and to take note of their contents ».

Two witnesses testify to having recognized M. Sisich among the gang of spoilers which pillaged Icissifiniciis.

All the public buildings of the State and of the Communities were completely pillaged; nearly all the schools were damaged. The archives were generally destroyed.

All the villages of which the evacuation was ordered were pillaged before being demolished, the population not having the necessary time and the means to save their furniture, crops and animals.

What has been said above is the work of the High Command itself; how then could this example of the High Command be not followed by the different columns of the Army and by the Comitadjis who were cooperating with them? The individual acts of theft and pillage are innumerable, many of which were committed by means of threats and violence at times very grave, even by means of assassination. Everything was used as a pretext for these acts of brigandage: domiciliary visits and searches for acts of spying, accusations of communicating with the enemy, searches for arms, arrests of fugitives, searching for absentees from the corvee labour. Woe to him who would resist. Every arrested person found his home pillaged when he was set free.

As regards the extortions of sums of money under the influence of threats, fear and tortures, these were everyday events and reveal a degree of corruption existing among the Bulgarians which could not be surpassed. All the local Commanders and their subordinates bartered their influence and sold their favours. Every dispensation, every authorization was a means of making money; money was paid for obtaining a pass to go about, for absenting from the corvee labour, for avoiding imprisonment and tortures, for being released, etc., etc. All persons known to the comitadjis as possessing savings were the object of measures obliging them to purchase their peace. It was a veritable hunt for gold.

The Bulgarian Command could not possibly have been ignorant of all these facts which could be very easily suppressed in an army under so severe a discipline as that of the Bulgarian Army

Famine.

To all these evils was added a still more redoubtable scourge — famine — resulting from the criminal intentions of the Bulgarian Government.

It is an undisputed fact that Eastern Macedonia — that rich and fertile province — suffered from famine atrociously and that many thousands of persons succumbed to it.

But of what the Commission has been able to convince itself and what it desires to bring into clear light is that this destructive famine was deliberate, organized, maintained and exploited by the Bulgarian Command.

The latter committed a serious act of depriving the country of all its crops and supplies and it explained this action by stating that it undertook the revictualling of the country. As a matter of fact it organised this service very methodically; relief committees, census and lists, tickets for the distribution, general depots, agents of the distribution, nothing was neglected except the provisions themselves.

In requisitioning the animals necessary for transport and the cultivation of the soil; in suppressing all freedom of circulation to such an extent that it became necessary to obtain a permit in order to go to the fields; in imposing upon the entire population corvees which absorbed all its time and prevented all cultivation of the soil; in omitting to distribute any seeds; in permitting the development of a reign of terror and insecurity, such as we have described above; in deporting and imprisoning citizens by the thousands, is it possible for the Bulgarian Command — after doing all the above — to have had any illusions whatever on the events that were to follow? We cannot believe it. But granting that in the beginning it lacked a clear idea of the result which would fatally follow the measures enforced, why did it remain indifferent to the warnings, which did not fail to reach its ears, and to the cries of distress from the victims?

In August 19, 1916, General Soukoff came to Drama in order to regulate the revictualling of the province; it was decided in agreement with the Greek prefect that the Bulgarian Army Service Corps would supply five hundred grammes of flour per day, per inhabitant. On the same day ten wagons of flour and maize were delivered for the towns of Drama and Cavalla; during the fifteen days following, no distribution took place; almost at once the ration fell to about two hundred and fifty grammes per person, later to even less and the delivery was no longer made every day but only two or three times a week; often many weeks went by without the least distribution taking place. Deprived of these supplies the population and more particularly that of the towns was soon reduced to starvation, in as much as owing to the prohibition of traveling it was impossible to secure anything from the villages. The sufferings caused complaints. The enforced imposition of the law had raised the cost of living; the imposition of very reduced prices raised the cost still higher as all that was eatable disappeared from the market and attained fabulous prices. Everything was lacking, even salt.

The workmen, deprived of work, and the refugees from the destroyed villages were the first to suffer and numerous deaths from starvation took place, first in Cavalla and then at Pravista, Serres and Drama, extending later to the entire province. (The Moslem and Jewish communities suffered much less because they were treated less severely).

Overcoming their religious scruples, the famished people ate dead animals, dogs, cats, tortoises, serpents; they fed themselves with wild herbs and whatever roots they could find. But as nourishment was lacking the plague became very intense and ravaged the population. The dead are to be counted by the thousands.

We have no intention of painting a picture of the sufferings of the inhabitants. Our task is to ascertain and to report. And indeed how could we find adequate words to convey the anguish of thousands of unfortunate people tortured by incessant famine, they themselves prolonging the duration of their tortures by the force of the instinct of life and succumbing only after they had endured all the moral and physical tortures possible? Certain families were completely wiped out and it was always with a painful feeling that the Commission heard from the mouth of a survivor the dry and brutal story of all the members that had disappeared. From the point of view of suffering,

what is violent death by the sword or fire in comparison with that long and painful agony?

Moreover, it is by the cool and deliberate will of the Bulgarian Government that the famine accomplished its destructive task, for it was the fatal and inevitable result of the measures it had ordered and of which it must have foreseen the effects. It was aware of the gradual advance of the scourge from the reports of its military representatives and the appeals of distress from the Hellenic representatives. All correspondence between the prefect of Drama and the Greek Legation of Sofia was transacted in French and transmitted by the Bulgarian Military Governor. The Bulgarian Government was therefore acquainted with all the distressing appeals made by the prefect of Drama. The prefect of Serres frequently implored General Daneff on behalf of the inhabitants and the Hellenic Government protested at Sofia on numerous occasions. (The documents are published integrally).

On November 12, 1916 the prefect of Drama handed to M. Passaroff, Minister of Bulgaria, then going through Drama, a long letter exposing the situation and drawing attention to the menace of famine.

On December 14, 1916, the Greek Legation at Sofia was begged to intervene as the situation was becoming critical.

On January 18, 1917, the prefect of Serres warned General Daneff of the danger of famine and demanded permission to utilize fully the wealth of the soil of Serres.

On January 19, 1917, a new appeal was sent to Sofia: « Cavalla and Drama are in a desperate situation ».

On February 25, 1917, Sofia was begged to protest against the order which had then appeared that cereals should be paid in gold; the situation was desperate.

On February 27, 1917, letters from the Mayors of Cavalla, Pravista and Drama were transmitted to General Daneff informing him that deaths from inanition were frequent, protesting against the order that cereals should be paid for in gold and begging for assistance.

On February 27, 1917, the Greek Legation at Sofia reported to Athens on the distress of Eastern Macedonia, giving an account of the protests and the communications oral and written, to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the President of the Council, to M. Dobrovitz, Chief of the King's Cabinet, and also to the representatives of Berlin.

At about the end of February 1917, the Mayor of Cavalla sent a pathetic letter to General Daneff begging for aid for « the city in distress and for the dying community ».

On March 1917, the prefect of Drama informed the Military Governor of the state of affairs at Nea-Midia: « More than 250 are dead out of a total of 953 inhabitants. »

March 5, 1917	} The Greek Legation at Sofia protests to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and to the Prime Minister of Bulgaria.
March 14, 1917	
March 23, 1917	

April 5, 1917. The Mayor of Drama informs General Daneff that the number of those known to have died during the first three months of 1917 is 1338 as against 119 during the corresponding period in 1916; this figure being in fact an underestimation as numerous deaths among refugees had not been declared.

April 8, 1917. The Mayor of Cavalla informs General Daneff that about four thousand persons died at Cavalla during the first three months of 1917, whereas in 1916 when the population was double, only 220 had died during the corresponding period.

What was the action of the Bulgarian Government? The two measures which it took are fresh evidence of its intentions :

I. On March 8, 1917, the Military Governor caused the insertion of Order N° 15 in the daily paper Nea-Drama, which ran as follows : « The Minister of Finances by a letter addressed to us, dated March 3, under N° 574, orders that the inhabitants who buy provisions from the Bulgarian State must pay for them at prices already fixed, but in gold, at the current price of 100 silver lews against 100 gold lews. Price of a gold coin of twenty francs equals 20 lews ; of a Turkish pound 22.70 lews. »

II. Hoffmann, the engineer-agriculturist, charged with inquiring into the situation made a report which the Military Governor handed to the prefect of Drama on March 3, 1917. The document begins thus : « Owing to circumstances which it is unnecessary to enumerate here, the lives of many thousands of persons have been seriously endangered..... » (This is an admission). With regard to the situation he admits that the animals for tilling the soil are lacking, but nevertheless local production must be intensified..... by..... ? « the importation of modern agricultural machines with mechanical tractors » ; the organization of a Company for the cultivation of the soil, « consisting of the owners of capital in the country will furnish the capital necessary for the purchase of the material. »

Could one be more ironically cruel? From poor people dying from hunger and pain, the Bulgarian Government demands gold and « suggests the organization of a Company for the importation of agricultural machines with mechanical tractors ».

The accusation that the famine was deliberate and organised being such a grave one, the Commission has gone into the question of its verification thoroughly.

The plague was exploited in different ways and by different categories of people. There was in Eastern Macedonia a group of unscrupulous people of a type to be found everywhere, who (whether by their own means, or more probably aided by the interested complicity, corruption and speculation of the Bulgarian officials) carried on scandalous speculations. A few privileged people received wagonloads of merchandise from Bulgaria and resold it at fabulous prices. In order to obtain a few handfuls of maize, the inhabitants sold all their jewels, their valuables, their linen, their clothes ; all the other needs gave way before the imperative need of food.

As concerns the Bulgarian Government it exploited the famine which it had provoked in the following way :

1. By means of the order of March 8, reproduced above, it drained all the country of its gold to the advantage of the Bulgarian Treasury.

2. As the Central Empires were wanting in copper, cotton and wool the Bulgarian Command chose the moment, when owing to their scarcity the prices of provisions had risen to an unheard of degree, in order to exchange food products with the materials which it wanted. The province was covered by special agents who, in exchange of an ounce of copper or wool gave an equivalent quantity of maize. The Command thus succeeded in obtaining a considerable number of objects made of copper and a certain quantity of cotton and wool.

When passing through Drama the Commission had an opportunity of seeing in a depot a fairly large quantity of bags containing copper articles flattened out and numerous bales of wool. The Bulgarian Command had not had the time to remove them and so left them together with the furniture plundered from Cavalla.

By maintaining the scarcity of provisions this traffic was enabled to go on ; had the famine ceased it would have died of itself.

3. Bulgaria needed manual labour at home, but as a state of war did not exist, she did not dare to make deportations en masse. But when the country was famishing, after thousands of people had succumbed, the Command made known to the people both by proclamations and propaganda, that the families which desired to emigrate in Bulgaria would find there remunerative labour and abundant food. In order to escape death, several thousands of the inhabitants left for Bulgaria where they were distributed as labourers in the interior of the country. We shall see, at a later stage, in what condition of misery they returned and how they were treated while there. All of these emigrants were Greek Orthodox.

The state of famine continued up to the evacuation of Eastern Macedonia (September 1918), but with a diminishing intensity after the summer of 1917.

The city of Cavalla was hit by the scourge more than any other part of the province. M. Joseph Vigot, veterinary doctor and major of the second class of the French Mission, who saw Cavalla on the morrow of its reoccupation, expresses himself thus : « In the streets one witnessed the distressing spectacle of very much enfeebled people, with a yellowish hue, dull, looking like skeletons, lacking the strength to move about and reminding one of the classical shadows of starving people... This impression was confirmed by the continued sight of these unfortunate people throwing themselves without any false shame on anything that they could find in the streets with which to feed themselves..... To these facts I should like to add an impression of a different order : these people had no longer the appearance of human beings... their look was fugitive, timorous, dull and gave the impression that man had degenerated to the level of a hunted beast concerned only with the sole desire of food. For clothes they wore rags, most of them being barefooted.

Mr. Anderson of the American Red Cross makes an analogous declaration with regard to the condition at Serres.

The district of Sidirocastro was the one that suffered the least from famine; there, the Bulgarian propaganda had worked a great deal and the district contained many Bulgarophones.

In examining the statistics of the villages one by one, it is made clear that the mortality was excessive only in the centers which were purely Hellenic; there were localities which were spared whose neighbours were ravaged.

Rape.

According to the testimony of the inhabitants, few women above the age fourteen, have escaped the bestiality of the occupying forces and the number of violations is considerable. It is probable that the statement is correct, for it is not to be supposed that the Bulgarian soldier should respect the honour of women any more than he does the liberty, the property and the life of the citizens. But the victims of attacks of this sort, yielding to sentiments of modesty or interest easily understood, — and which should be respected —, refuse to relate their misfortune. As one of the witnesses said naively : « Shame shuts their mouth ». So much so, that there is no connection between the number of instances of actual rape and that of testimonies heard on this question. Besides, the Commission was very strict in accepting evidence concerning this crime and has rejected as doubtful certain testimonies in which the existence of violation did not seem sufficiently established.

Nevertheless, the number of testimonies received, leaves no doubt of the existence

and of the frequency of rape. Many of these acts were committed by officers who found in their soldiers convenient guides and accomplices; the district Commanders have almost all abused their position by forcibly seizing women or girls of their liking. Some of the violations were carried out with unbelievable brutality; at Podogoriani, Catherine Flouria, whom an officer accompanied by two soldiers attempted to rape jumped from the window in terror and broke her leg in falling. Upon this, the two soldiers picked her up and took her back to the room where the officer used her to gratify his bestial instincts, without worrying about her sufferings and her tears. At the same time, Thomais, her sister, fifteen years old, was raped by the two soldiers in the next room, with such brutality that she died the same evening. Two other sisters, still younger, were so much affected by the scene that they became ill and died a few days later. As to the father, he was killed some weeks later by a blow on the stomach with a bayonet, because he refused to tell where his daughter who terror-stricken had run away from the house, was hiding.

Such is the history of just this one family of Podogoriani under the Bulgarian domination.

At the same village, Stilian Cisse, on the one hand and Marie Voudon on the other, were raped one after the other by four officers. A doctor raped Catherine Evangeliou in a chamber next to the one where her parents were dying as a result of the blows they had received.

At Drasna, the local Commander, Lieut. Koliéff, of the 38th Regiment promised to respect the girls after receiving 150 Turkish pounds. But a few days after he had taken the money from the priest, he kidnapped Marigo Christou, seventeen years old, had her brought to the house of the priest and raped her in the house of the latter, while two soldiers were keeping guard at the door.

Lieutenant Simoff raped Olga Heracli whom his troops had seized upon his orders.

In the same village, Polichroni Arkanidou, was raped by a sergeant aided by a number of soldiers; her father mother and sister who attempted to protect her from the assault were beaten and died as a result.

At Cavalla, Ensign Angeloff, a brutal and cruel officer, raped girls frequently infecting them with his chronic venereal disease; he even subjected some of his victims to unnatural assaults.

Again at Cavalla, an old woman sixty years of age and a grandmother, was raped at the same time as her two grand-daughters.

At Serres, Evangelia Constantinou was raped successively by a captain and a lieutenant, while near her mother.

The soldiers introduced into such acts of rape the same bestialities that they committed in battle; the same victim often had to satisfy the lust of many ravishers cooperating with one another in order to put down all resistance. Thus, Mary Nicolas Smilaou from Nikisiani was, in this way dragged out of the village with her mother and child and raped by their side by five soldiers.

At Nikissiani, Katina wife of C. Papaloudis, was abducted by soldiers who ravished her after having springled her sexual parts with an irritant powder.

Let us add by way of conclusion that the Bulgarians took advantage of the famishing state of the unfortunate inhabitants who sold themselves for a piece of bread. This is not imagination but sad reality.

Seizure of Children.

A certain number of children were seized throughout Eastern Macedonia and sent to Bulgaria under conditions which it is important to state. Certain of these cases are deportations pure and simple, but these are few.

Under the pretext of philanthropy, the Bulgarian Command organized orphanages with the pecuniary assistance of certain business men, particularly at Pravista and Drama. There were gathered the children whom the famine had rendered orphans or whose parents had given them up so as not to see them die from hunger. When a member of the Bulgarian military forces desired to get one of these children, he sent a demand to the Bulgarian Command of the district. Equipped with an order, he would visit the orphanage and upon handing a receipt would secure a child, which he would send to Bulgaria. The end in view was the denationalization of these children.

We have not been able to secure exact figures as to the number of the children thus sent to Bulgaria. A great number of these orphans have not been reclaimed and will in all probability remain in Bulgaria. At the time the Commission was engaged in the inquiry a good many children were still kept in exile despite the fact that their parents had claimed them. However, all demands concerning this matter are addressed to the Hellenic Mission at Sofia which is charged specially with the repatriation of the deportees.

Taxes.

The situation is considerably obscure concerning this aspect of the Bulgarian administration in Eastern Macedonia. All the villages were not dealt with in the same way. From declarations made to us, it appears that the taxes have consisted of levies in kind of varying quantities. But they cannot have amounted to much as the production had diminished to one fourth of its previous quantity.

We have clear indications about the taxes on tobacco only. The Hellenic Government used to levy on the tobacco crops a single tax, a tithe consisting of 11,50 0/0. The Bulgarian Command levied the same tax on a part of the crops of 1916, but during 1917 it imposed the following four taxes upon the production and industry of tobacco :

1. It raised the tithe to 22 0/0 ;
2. In addition it levied 15 0/0 on the produce in kind ;
3. It taxed the profits of the merchants at 15 0/0 ;
4. It taxed salaries and profits of all nature by a tax of from 2 0/0 to 7 0/0.

The Commission made no attempt to estimate the amount of the moneys collected by the Bulgarian Treasury, this task not coming within its mandate.

In the district of Drama, the Bulgarian Command collected the rental of a number of estates belonging to the State, under the pretext that they were unclaimed property.

Order and Public Life.

It would be superfluous to add that the economic life of the country and public order became a dead letter; all the administrative services ceased to function : posts, transports, justice, local police, customs, financial administration, religious services and public instruction. After June 1917, as the public functionnaires had all been deported, the municipal services ceased to exist. The result was a complete stoppage of local life, the total disappearance of Hellenic sovereignty. The population was reduced to the position of a herd of people liable to the corvée whose sole function was for the benefit of the Bulgarian Army, in exchange for a piece of bread.

All the regulations resolved upon at the second Hague Conference concerning the State and the individuals, were ignored by the Bulgarians, whose financial responsibility in this matter is a serious one. The Commission had no mandate to ascertain the sum of indemnities, but there is no doubt that they rise to a pretty high figure, even if we confine ourselves solely to damage which is materially appreciable, not to mention that which is irreparable, that is to say, the loss of human life and the consequent weakening of the resources of the country.

Destructions.

As Bulgaria intended to keep Eastern Macedonia as a Bulgarian province she was interested in destroying or expelling the Greeks inhabiting that region. But the destruction of immovable property of value was not to her advantage. It is equally true as the Commission has ascertained that with the exception of a certain number of villages which were entirely destroyed, there was no systematic destruction of immovable property. Throughout the Province, the Bulgarian troops demolished a very large number of inhabited houses, appurtenances, and rural buildings and they have damaged a still greater number. Most often, the aim in view was the procuring of wood either for heating purposes or for the construction of shelters for the troops. The Commission has ascertained that the Bulgarians have often by preference razed down houses without much value, except in the case of schools which if not always destroyed, were at any rate greatly damaged.

Almost no instance of destruction, not even that of the villages situated in the zone of military operations, was dictated by military considerations, strictly speaking. The question may be put whether the need of wood and of materials justified the destruction of private property by the Army. The consideration of such a question is outside the scope of the Commission, but this is true however, that in no instance did the Bulgarian Command take any measures whatsoever for safeguarding the rights of the interested parties. The buildings were demolished by the soldiers without any formality and the demolition was often preceded by the brutal ejection of the occupants. We must also mention that the demolition of the villages, whether included or not in the zone of operations, was preceded by the ejection of the inhabitants without any notice and the people were thus able to save neither their furniture nor their crops nor their cattle. Everything was pillaged by the Bulgarian troops.

Ninety four villages were wholly destroyed including Cato-Tzoumaya, a district with more than 6.000 inhabitants. Besides, many thousands of buildings are known to have been destroyed or seriously damaged; for further details on this matter the Commission recommends the perusal of the documents concerning each of these districts.

The houses of the greater part of the destroyed villages on the Strouma front were built of baked earth in a primitive fashion; they were hence of little value, but their reconstruction is a difficult and costly affair owing to the lack of wood in that region.

Deportations.

The reports and depositions as to the persons deported to Bulgaria are abundant, precise and they corroborate one another. On the whole, they inspire pity for the unfortunate people who have suffered the hardships they describe and disgust for those who have inflicted them. The mere perusal of the published documents would be sufficient without any commentary.

We must distinguish two periods in this connection — the one which precedes and the one which follows the declaration of war by Greece against Bulgaria in June 1917.

During the first period the number of those deported to Bulgaria was relatively small, consisting of persons of a definite class (such as teachers, priests, and members of the professional class) who were deported because of their political opinions, on the pretext of security. In general, they were not treated very badly and they lived freely under police surveillance, depending on their own means for subsistence.

Families from the evacuated or destroyed villages were deported during the same period. Lastly, several thousands of persons accepting the invitation of the Bulgarian Command migrated into Bulgaria in order to escape the devastating famine. There they worked for the account of Bulgarians and were not tortured.

But as soon as war was declared by Greece against Bulgaria, the deportations took a different form. By a decision of the Bulgarian Government all the officials at first and then all men between the ages of 18 and 55 were transferred to Bulgaria, there to be employed in the construction of public works. This measure was applied to persons of a much greater age, and even to octogenarians.

The deportees were first summoned and then gathered in one of the concentration places, where after they had been identified they were divided up into groups of varying importance and conducted on foot under escort to the stations from which they were to start (Drama and Porna), where they awaited the formation of a train. Crowded together in groups of fifty or sixty into cattle trucks or closed freight wagons, they were taken to Schoumen, which was the principal area of concentration for the deportees from Eastern Macedonia into Bulgaria. The railway trip lasted generally from five to six days and it was a torture; owing to the lack of breathable air in the closed wagons the opening of which was forbidden under any pretext, the frightful crowding up resulted in an outbreak of ankylosis; it was impossible to satisfy natural needs so much so that some of the sick, suffering from diarrhoea had to evacuate in their clothes; if any one attempted to break the rule against descending from the wagons, he was struck by a rifle butt or by a bayonet; many persons were seriously wounded in this way. Besides, the deportees suffered from hunger, as no food was distributed to them during the trip; some of the convoys were given one ration and others two rations of bread per person at Stara-Zagora. To quench their thirst they had to pay the guards who sold them water at from two to five levs per bottle. Again, it was only by paying sums of money that they were able to have the doors of their wagons open for a few minutes in order to purify the asphyxiating atmosphere. The cupidity of the troops forming the escort in the train is emphasized by all the witnesses.

On their arrival at Adrianople the deportees were subjected to measures of disinfection; they were kept for a number of hours completely naked in a big hall and then conducted to a bath on leaving which every scrap of hair was removed from their bodies.

At Schoumen, they were herded into dilapidated stables and after being kept there for a few days, they were taken to the "lager", i. e. the concentration camp, situated at a half hour's distance from the city where they awaited to be sent off to the public works yard.

At the "lager" at Schoumen, they were herded into clay huts hollowed to a depth of fifty centimetres (about 25 inches); they had just enough space to stretch themselves in, and when it rained the shelters were inundated. The deportees had to sleep on

the beaten earth without the slightest bedding. Their food consisted of a bread ration of from 250 to 500 grammes, and of a nondescript soup cooked with vegetables on rare occasions. The water was located at a good distance from the camp; the people were conducted to the latrines in groups, but it was very dangerous to visit the latter in the night as the sentinels drew fire without much hesitation on the pretext that the deportees were attempting to escape. Any purchase from the peasants passing by the camp was forbidden, but a jew from Cavalla had, with the consent of Lieut. Petroff, the Commandant of the camp, installed a canteen where goods were sold at exorbitant prices.

According as the situation demanded, the deportees were divided up into groups of labourers and taken into the interior of Bulgaria, but before starting they were made to deposit all their money with the exception of about a hundred lews for petty expenses; the amount of the deposit was recorded on a register but the security was only relative. Some of the men succeeded later in getting their deposits back but they were given only 20 lews for every Napoleon gold, 22.70 lews for every Turkish gold pound and half a lew for a drachme. Those who were found to have concealed money on their persons were beaten with sticks: notwithstanding the strict surveillance, many of the deportees managed to keep certain sums which were later taken away from them.

It is unnecessary to enumerate the various localities where the deportees were made to work; most of them worked in the construction of railways between Carnabat and Schoumen, between Uskub and Ochrida by Kitchewo, on the Beleni-Sistov line, in Dobrudja, the Danube, etc.

Everywhere they were treated with an absolute neglect of their health, their dignity and their life. They were subject to crushing labour varying from twelve to fifteen hours daily, without a single day of rest, in all weather and even at times during the night, receiving from 250 to 500 grammes of bread, and not a very substantial broth by way of food. They suffered from hunger and some of them have been seen fighting over scraps of pumpkins.

They were lodged in huts which they had themselves built with boughs and where they were very insufficiently sheltered from the vagaries of the weather; no hay was distributed on any occasion and they had to sleep on the bare earth. In spite of the severe winter, with a temperature of fifteen degrees below zero, they were never given any covers, and many benumbed by the cold slept and failed to wake up and were thus delivered from their sufferings by death.

Their underlinen, their clothes, their dilapidated shoes, were never replaced and they had to work almost barefooted and with their clothes in tatters.

As no soap was given them, they could not keep themselves properly clean and their bodies were ravaged by vermin. There was no health administration; the doctors, whether Greeks, Serbians or Roumanians, were powerless because of the lack of medicines. The hospitals improvised on the spot received persons only in a dying condition; in the words of several doctors they were places in which to die. Very often in order to reach them it was necessary to cover such a long distance that the sick preferred to remain where they were.

Letters and packages reached the deportees very rarely.

Above all, the savage brutality and the cupidity of those in charge made life for the unfortunate deportees almost unbearable and there are cases on record of insanity and suicide resulting from extreme suffering.

All infractions of the rules of work and all signs of weakness were punished on

the spot with blows administered with rods or rifle butts or perhaps by public flogging in the presence of the prisoners gathered in a circle around the victims; at the conclusion of the process of torture it often happened that one more corpse was taken to the grave. If the workers were late in leaving their shelters their brutal overseers struck them harshly in order to oblige them to come out: many witnesses testified to having seen on various occasions these brutes continue striking men already dead in the belief that they were only reluctant to get up. An overseer beat to death one of the deportees who had become insane and who consequently did not understand the orders given.

Among the workyards that of Kitchevo was the worse; people were sent there as a punishment and those who had escaped spoke of it with horror. The conditions of work, the severity of the climate in winter, the brutality of the management were such as to make of it a veritable "hell" and a "cemetery", in the words of the witnesses. The workers simply melted away by an unbelievable mortality due to overwork, blows and epidemics. In order to remove all compromising signs, the crosses from the graves were taken away and the soil that had been dug up for the burial leveled down.

The mortality was great also at Carnabat as well as in other workyards.

The dead were buried like dogs without any ceremony; holes were dug by the deportees themselves and in those yards where the mortality was particularly great there was a certain number of open graves ready to receive the dead.

The accounts given by the witnesses are disconcerting in what they reveal of hatred, bestiality and ferocity in the Bulgarian soldiers and camp managers; one is reminded of the distant epochs when the harsh heart of the barbarian was unmoved by pity. Many witnesses have affirmed that certain infirmity attendants poisoned the sick; that persons were buried while still alive; that people who had fallen victims to epidemics had perished in some premises serving as a hospital which had been deliberately burned... The Commission does not propose to cite the facts and refers the reader to the depositions.

Many of the deportees perished from blows; exanthematic typhus and dysentery made serious gaps in their ranks; the severe cold from which there was nothing to protect them was responsible for the death of a great number, and there were many cases of feet being frozen, with amputation or death following.

Are not those who have returned justified in saying that the Bulgarian Government was aiming at their extermination?

The work which they were required to perform was of many kinds: earth-works, transport of materials, quarrying, felling of trees, bridge and road construction, etc. They worked in all kinds of weather and under the harshest of conditions, in rain, snow, water and in marshes.

The least unfortunate were those who were allowed to work for individuals, on payment of a tax of four levs per day.

At first no distinction was drawn among the deportees; people of every social rank with or without a capacity for work were taken to the workyards. The Greek Government officials, headed by the prefect of Drama, were distributed among the groups of workers along with the artisans, the merchants, the farmers, the members of the liberal professions and the manual workers. Later, the officials and some others for whom such work was not suitable and who paid for exemption were sent to Plevna where their condition was a little less hard.

The priests, 216 in number, were sent to Sevlievo, where after two or three months of comparative liberty, they were put into barracks and ordered to perform manual work, some of it humiliating. To the oldest among them, an octogenarian, was assigned the cleaning of the latrines. Thirteen of the priests died at Sevlievo.

Upon the defeat of the Bulgarian armies and the conclusion of the armistice the deportees regained their freedom, but attention must be called to the deplorable conditions under which their return trip was made. One of the witnesses, Kenneth A. Thomas, of the American Red Cross, saw seven thousand refugees passing by Tyrnovo, where the Red Cross had installed a hospital and he expresses himself as follows : « They came in cattle trucks, 35 to 70 per truck..... in an indescribable condition of filth, covered with vermin. They had no bread beyond what was given them from the English canteens. By way of clothes, they wore a sack in the place of coat and trousers..... Each train brought four or five dead from cold or inanition..... on many occasions the Bulgarians left the poor people by the roadside between two stations without food..... their misery cannot be described.....; tuberculosis made ravages among the exiles owing to their privations.....; most of the adults are exhausted and I will never be able to perform much work..... »

This is the testimony of a witness whose impartiality is beyond doubt and the value of whose contribution is indisputable. Besides, all the other statements corroborate that of Mr. Kenneth A. Thomas; the nervous breakdown and the physical prostration of the deportees are commented upon by all the doctors. The Commission has observed on its own account the lamentable state of the victims returning from Bulgaria.

It was in the course of the visits which the Commission made to the refugee camps in Cavalla, that its President Mr. Constantine Vassiliou a lawyer of talent and a well-known professor of the University of Athens, and Mr. Skouloudis a magistrate of great ability, contracted the germ of exanthematic typhus and died. The Honourable Mr. Cuypers, the delegate of the Belgian Government was also a victim of typhus but fortunately escaped death.

Apart from those who perished on the way, many refugees have returned infirm and crippled. Some died after their return and most of them found their houses demolished and pillaged; they live miserably in darkest distress crushed by misfortunes.

After having thus described so many atrocities and acts inspiring horror, it is a relief to the Commission to express its deepest admiration for the American Red Cross whose devotion is above all praise. Its work in Eastern Macedonia has been eminently beneficial and it deserves the gratitude not only of the Hellenic people but of all Humanity.

Mussulmans.

In agreement with the Bulgarian Government, Turkey raised levies of men among the Moslems of Macedonia; about 18.000 were recruited by force, of whom one third were incorporated into the Bulgarian Army and two thirds into the Turkish Army. These enrolments were in no way voluntary and any Moslems who tried to avoid enlistment were treated as deserters and shot.

Most of those who were enrolled in Bulgaria were employed in the auxiliary services and have returned. On the contrary, practically none of these who enlisted in the Turkish Army returned.

Fouad Bey was the person who raised the levies on behalf of the Turkish Government.

Summary of the Result of the Occupation.

The Commission has made inquiries in 339 towns and villages, the total population of which was about 305.000

The number is today reduced to 235.000

The number of dead in the province during the two years of Bulgarian occupation is about. 32.000

from among whom about 30.000

died from famine, blows or hardships.

There were deported to Bulgaria about 42.000

The number of those who migrated into Bulgaria in order to escape famine is from. 10 to 12.000

Those who died in Bulgaria are about 12.000

From the 48.000 Moslems enrolled in the Turkish and Bulgarian Armies. 8 to 10.000

failed to return.

At the time of the occupation some inhabitants of Bulgarian extraction and some Mussulmans left the country.

Those of the refugees in Greece who have not yet returned and may return are about 16.000.

Some of the above figures are only approximate, yet they are very near the truth erring, if at all, by way of underestimation so far as the numbers of the dead and the deported are concerned; for, lists containing the names were prepared in most of the localities, and in those where no such lists existed the Commission made very careful investigation.

There are about 153 villages that have not been examined by the Commission, their population amounting to 50.000 before the Bulgarian occupation. It would be too arbitrary to apply the above figures to them as well with a view to arriving at an average of losses as the data would no longer be the same; the increase in the percentage is the result of the very high losses in Cavalla, Serres and the Pangaion region.

They were much less heavy in some districts, notably in the mountainous regions of Drama and Serres, where a large part of the population is Moslem. The Commission only brings forward results that can be verified without offering any estimates based on analogy.

The total of losses with regard to animals is enormous. But as the Commission could not verify same, it has been decided to give only the figures for each district, repeating the reservations made concerning these districts.

It is however a known fact that Eastern Macedonia was very well stocked in herds of animals, espacially in sheep and goats whereas at this moment the want of them is very noticeable.

The number of villages entirely destroyed (in almost every case for no strategic reasons) is 94. Moreover, the number of buildings destroyed or damaged is high, but

the Commission prefers not to give any figures as it has not been able to check the numbers thoroughly in every instance. The reader is referred to the documents concerning each district.

The cultivation and the industry of tobacco — one of the principal sources of wealth in the Province — were seriously damaged; the crops which in normal times varied between ten and eleven million of ocques fell to four million in 1917 and to three million in 1918; the lack of workers, the entire disappearance of beasts of labour and the loss of many skilled workmen will hinder a quick and immediate recovery.

The production of cereals has suffered in the same way, having diminished by more than two thirds.

The herds will have to be restored anew.

As a result of the privations and sufferings of the inhabitants, as well as owing to the condition in which the greater part of the deported have returned, the public health is imperilled and the population's capacity for work weakened. Tuberculosis and epidemics and more particularly exanthematic typhus continue their ravages, necessitating a vigilant resistance on the part of the public.

The human losses which amount to nearly fifty thousand on a population of 305,000 are irreparable.

Conclusion

It appears to us certain that Bulgaria had a fixed purpose : viz. the destruction of the Greek Orthodox population of Eastern Macedonia. In thus acting she stimulated the feelings of hatred and revenge which characterized the Bulgarian mentality and paved the way for her claim on the country which she has been coveting for a long time. The execution of her program of destruction commenced from the very start of the occupation, while the Governments of Sofia and Athens were still on friendly terms. It was not carried out by violent and sanguinary means. In Eastern Macedonia there were not as in Belgium, in Northern France or particularly in Serbia, wholesale massacres of the populations; the number of deaths by violence (amounting to a few hundred) is relatively small compared with the total losses; often these were the result of individual initiative.

Organized famine was the underhand means employed, proving much more cruel and efficacious in the suppression of the Greek element whilst at the same time enriching the Bulgarian Government and private individuals.

The stories of wholesale deaths by shooting and other violent means impress the reader whose imagination sees the mutilated bodies and the spilt blood, but, in our opinion, the brutality of such crimes cannot compare in cruelty with that of condemning thousands of inoffensive beings to death by starvation after long and agonizing tortures.

As regards the deportations, they were blameworthy actions in that they were a formal breach of the laws and customs of war. But what renders them an odious and outrageous crime is that they were carried out not as a means of assuring security to the country but for the purpose of exterminating the individuals concerned. More than one quarter of the male population thus deported succumbed to the privations, blows, tortures and forced labour.

No civilized nation would dare apply to common-law criminals the treatment to which the deported population of Eastern Macedonia was subjected. For those who escaped from Kitsevo the word "hell" has a real meaning.

The Bulgarian Government and Military Command are directly responsible for these two crimes of extermination by starvation and deportation. Their responsibility is also directly involved in the pillages, spoliation of every nature and forced labour imposed upon the inhabitants of Eastern Macedonia in defiance of all the principles of the « rights of man », and in all the other acts of violence and murder which marked the carrying out of the orders given.

Neither can they escape direct responsibility for arbitrary arrest, for tortures officially inflicted on imprisoned persons and for the deaths and infirmities which followed. They are also responsible for the unwarranted devastation, as well as for the carrying off of children, with a view to denationalizing them.

They are also responsible for the administration during the two years they occupied this territory, and as we have already said, the reparation account for the damage inflicted will be heavy, if it is equitably established.

As regards individual and isolated crimes committed either by soldiers or by comitadjis (cruel actions, rape, assassinations, murders, pillaging, money extortions, etc.), we simply repeat that the Military Command which had the task and the means of maintaining public order, failed in its duty in that it omitted to attend to these matters and that it fostered a regime both arbitrary and lacking in public safety in accordance with the views of the Government. In these crimes the Government though indirectly, is nevertheless entirely responsible.

How is it possible to characterize a Government which manifests a spirit, of hypocrisy so deep, which dishonours its promises so easily, which ignores the rules of international law and the most elementary principles of the « rights of man », which condemns to tortures thousands of inoffensive people, which stops at no action, however barbarous, in order to satisfy its desires, its cupidity and its ambitions?

It will suffice for us to state that it is *dangerous*, not only for its immediate neighbours, but also for the whole of civilized Humanity.

It should be condemned to repair the damage which it has caused, in so far as reparation is possible. As regards the punishment which it deserves it should consist particularly in the application of measures to prevent it from renewing its criminal undertakings.

(Signed):

AIMÉ CUYPERS,
Consul, Delegate of the Belgian Royal Government.

GEORGES DUTILH,
Lawyer, Delegate of the French Government,
General Secretary.

CAPTAIN REGINALD STROLOGO,
2nd Garr. Batt. Northumberland Fusiliers,
Delegate of the British Government.

EMMANUEL TSIRIMONAKIS,
President of the Serres Tribunal,
Delegate of the Greek Government.

GIVOINE J. BABITCH,
Cavalry Officer of the Serbo-Croate-Slovene Army,
Delegate of the Serbian Government.