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Memor-2760

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*The Hon*  
4/9/19  
*April*  
Kerr

Mr. E. H. Kerr,  
Secretary to Mr. Lloyd George,

RECEIVED  
F. W. 867  
CO/S  
SERIES PEACE OFFICERS

Dear Sir,

I handed you my memorial on "Macedonia" without thinking that it was done for "Home Consumption" only and not adapted for foreign markets, but I hope you found nothing offensive in it. The idea of an American "Protectorate" was first suggested to me by an English Officer in Serres.

My first idea for the Balkans was the union of Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, etc., as equal, autonomous States in a Jugo-Slav union under the republican form of government. Jugo-Slavia is as yet unripe for this.

The next best thing, I am convinced, is an autonomous Macedonia. That would give the 250,000 refugees in Bulgaria a chance to return to their Macedonian homes. They cannot return under Serbia, and would not if they could. Under their own government the Macedonians could freely decide their further fate. Free expression cannot possibly be given with impunity while under Servian and Greek domination. If the Greeks imprison, as they have recently done, American missionaries in the city of Salonica, what would be the state of the Macedonian population, especially in the provinces? Word has come that even Sister Augustine dares not leave her house. An autonomous Macedonia would command Serbia's respect instead of enduring her oppressions as at present. Courting her with respect, she might win Macedonia later into the Jugo-Slav Federation, or union, as a voluntary and

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equal member. Macedonia would then be a source of strength instead of weakness to Jugo-Slavia.

Bulgaria would be immediately satisfied if Macedonia were made autonomous. The cause of offense between her and Serbia would be removed and a period of friendly relations naturally inaugurated. Along with Macedonia Bulgaria also would federate most closely with her Slav brothers to the West; whereas if Macedonia remains under Servian regression Bulgaria will remain embittered and estranged, and in a mood to make any feasible combination against Serbia.

If Macedonia were made autonomous neither Serbia nor Greece would have reason to complain. Whether the population of Macedonia were Servian, or Greek, or mixed, it would then enjoy freedom from any foreign yoke. If Servians are in the minority Macedonia should not belong to Serbia; if they are a majority they have nothing to fear from autonomy. The same is true of the Greeks and the Bulgarians. On the contrary, if the Servians are in the majority, or if the majority of the Slavs are pro-Serb, as is claimed, then Serbia might expect the autonomous state to declare in the course of time for union with the "mother country". In any case, no neighboring state need have fear of losing any just cause. They might offer, however, a vigorous though ephemeral opposition to such a solution.

An autonomous Macedonia would also prevent future trouble between Jugo-Slavia and Greece by at once uniting the Grecian to the Servian Macedonians, together with their Aegean port towns. It will offer the only sound basis for a Balkan League, which can never exist if the principle of nationalities is violated as at

present.

If autonomy is not granted there will surely be trouble in Macedonia itself. In spite of "pacific" measures such as imprisonment, murder and exile, the old Macedonian revolutionary leaders will return and operate as under Turkey. They will do this the more certainly that now the League of Nations will offer a better chance of a favorable issue.

It would be a grave error to mistake the absence of any "Macedonian cry" at the Conference for the non-existence of a Macedonian movement. Servian and Greek repression is strangling it within their borders and the united Greek and French blockade prevents message or messenger from getting to the outside world. Evidence, however, can be supplied that the old Macedonian Committees are in existence and active. They are as yet hopeful that the Conference will recognize their plain right to freedom. Once this hope is definitely gone and intercourse with the outside world is established, the Macedonian cry will be heard in unmistakable tones. It will come as an impeachment of the Conference for neglecting so familiar a question while dealing with many that are newer and less famous. As a friend of all the Balkan peoples I desire peace among them, founded on justice; as an American I am jealous of the reputation of our President and his colleagues upon whom so large a measure of censure will fall if a serious error or obvious wrong is allowed in the Balkans.

Respectfully yours,

*G. D. Woodruff*

8, Rue d'Offremont,  
P a r i s;

9th April, 1919.