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**The Request for the Arbitral Decision of President  
Wilson.**

During the London Conference of the Supreme Council the independence of the de facto government of the Armenian Republic was recognized by the Allied Powers on January 19, 1920. In the period of this London Conference an understanding was also reached upon the substantial parts of the treaty with Turkey, preparatory to the final formulation of the treaty, which took place at the San Remo Conference. An Inter-Allied Expert Commission was appointed to consider the delimitation of the boundaries of the new state of Armenia. This Commission made its report on February 24th. The report contained definite recommendations upon the boundaries to be established between Turkey and Armenia, which would constitute the southern and western boundaries of the new state. It also made provisions for outlets to the sea by the establishment of Batum as a free port, and by granting special rights to Armenia over the district of Lazistan and special privileges for import and export over the highway to Trebizond and in its harbor.

On March 12th the French Ambassador, M. Jusserand, submitted to the Secretary of State of the United States a note which embodied the main outlines of the tentative decisions agreed upon by the Supreme Council at the London Conference regarding the Turkish Treaty. The note of M.

Jusserand stated that the new Armenian Republic was to be guaranteed an outlet to the Black Sea by the grant of special rights over the Sandjak of Lazistan, which was to be autonomous under nominal Armenian suzerainty. The note of M. Jusserand gave no intimation of the other arrangement contemplated by the Supreme Council for an Armenian outlet via the free port of Batum nor of the special arrangements providing freedom of transit upon the old highway from Erzerum via Baiburt to the port of Trebizond.

In his reply to this note, dated March 24th, the Secretary of State expressed the view that the arrangement for an outlet for Armenia by way of Lazistan would not "assure to Armenia that access to the sea indispensable to its existence." He further expressed the hope that the Powers would consider the question of granting Trebizond to Armenia.

On April 23d the Secretary of State informed the Armenian Representative that the United States recognized the de facto government of the Armenian Republic.

At the San Remo Conference on April 26th the Supreme Council drafted a note to the Government of the United States requesting that the United States assume a mandate over Armenia, within the limits stated in Section 5 (Section 6 ?) of the first printed draft of the Turkish Treaty, and inviting the President of the United States,

whatever the decision of the American Government might be as to the mandate, to arbitrate the question of the boundaries between Armenia and Turkey.

On May 17th the Secretary of State telegraphed President Wilson's acceptance of the invitation of the Supreme Council that he delimit the southern and western boundaries of Armenia; but the request of President Wilson to the Senate that the United States assume a mandate over Armenia was rejected by the Senate upon June 1<sup>st</sup>.

After several postponements, the treaty with Turkey was signed at Sèvres on Tuesday, August 10. Avetis Aharonian, President of the Delegation of the Armenian Republic at Paris, affixed his signature to the treaty as binding the Armenian state to the acceptance of its terms. For Turkey the treaty was signed by General Haadi Pasha, Senator, by Riza Tevfik Bey, Senator, and by Rechad Haliss Bey, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Berne. The treaty has not yet been ratified by the Turkish Parliament, as is required by the Turkish constitution.