

**STATUS OF THE OLD BOUNDARY BETWEEN TURKEY AND PERSIA  
AT THE POINT WHERE THE BOUNDARY  
BETWEEN TURKEY (AUTONOMOUS AREA OF KURDISTAN)  
AND ARMENIA JOINS IT.**

In order to prevent confusion and dispute regarding the point on the frontier between Turkey and Persia at which the new frontier between Armenia and Turkey begins, it has been described in the text of the President's decision as a point upon the administrative boundary between the Sandjaks of Van and Hakkiari. This method of definition has been chosen because it enables the Boundary Commission to shorten or elongate this administrative boundary in order to attach it definitely to the old boundary between Turkey and Persia.

This method of description was necessitated by the fact that the position of the boundary between Turkey and Persia, which depends upon the "Treaty of Limits between Turkey and Persia, signed at Erzerum, May 19/31, 1847", is entirely unsettled. This Treaty is published in "British and Foreign State Papers", 1854-1855, vol. 45, London. 1865, pp. 874-876.

Attempts were made to settle this boundary in 1849 and again in 1878. The boundary was finally marked in

1913-14 by a Turco-Persian Frontier Commission, which demarcated the whole length of the frontier from Fac on the Persian Gulf to Mt. Ararat, a distance of 1180 miles. Of this distance 1140 miles were marked with boundary monuments, leaving 40 miles undemarcated near the Persian village of Kotur. The work of this Commission is described in "Records of the Survey of India", Volume IX, 1914-15, Calcutta, 1916, pp. 164-173.

Unfortunately the eastern terminus of the Armenian frontier established by President Wilson in 1920 lies within these 40 miles.

A summary of the points in dispute within the forty miles left undemarcated in 1913-14 will be found in the Reports of the Congress of Berlin in 1878. These reports discuss the various controversies between the Persians and the Turks regarding the village of Kotur and the highway through the pass west of that village.

An authenticated copy of the "Carte Identique" covering this area was reproduced, facing p. 2976, in Sir Edward Hertslet's "The Map of Europe by Treaty, showing the various Political and Territorial Changes which have taken place since the General Peace of 1814, with numerous Maps and Notes", Volume IV, 1875 to 1891, London, 1891. The same collection of treaties explains the status of the boundary near Kotur and the various attempts to settle and mark it.

It would be well, in case the matter comes up, to study Article XVIII of the Treaty of San Stefano, 1878 (pp. 2686-2687); the note on Kotur and the Armenians (p. 2756); the representation of the Turkish-Persian Frontier near Kotur as shown on the "Sketch Map of the Russo-Turkish frontier in Asia, Based upon the Russian Staff Map, showing the Boundaries as Proposed by the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano and as Fixed by the Treaty of Berlin" (this map faces pp. 2794 and leaves the village of Kotur in Turkey rather than in Persia); Article LX of the Treaty of Berlin by which "the Sublime Porte cedes to Persia the town and territory of Khotour, as fixed by the Mixed Anglo-Russian Commission for the delimitation of the frontiers of Turkey and Persia." (This is printed on p. 2796, with a long footnote describing attempts to settle the boundary at this point).

A study of these materials and those listed below would give the State Department the necessary details regarding the unmarked 40 miles of the boundary between Turkey and Persia, in case a question arises regarding the point at which the boundary established by President Wilson's decision joins the frontier between Turkey and Persia.

The Turko-Persian frontier Commission of 1914 operated under the terms of a protocol (not seen) signed in Con-

stantinople November 17, 1913, by Turkey, Great Britain, Russia, and Persia.

Reference to the negotiations leading up to this agreement and to the terms of the protocol will be found in:

- (1) House of Commons Debates (Vol. 64, p. 1063, proceedings of July 18, 1914.);
- (2) A speech by Premier Goremykine opening the Russian Duma, February 9, 1916 (see *La Question Persane*, by G. Demorgny, p. 287;
- (3) An article on page 487 of *L'Asie Française* for November, 1914;
- (4) London Times, October 28, 1913, p. 7, November 17, 1913, p. 7, November 19, 1913, p. 7.

The mapping of the northern part of the boundary, including the Kotur district, was entrusted to the Russians. The Russian maps were prepared on a scale of 2 versts to 1 inch.