

# The Balkan Committee.

*President*:—Professor WESTLAKE, K.C.  
*Chairman*:—Mr. NOEL BUXTON, M.P.  
*Treasurer*:—Mr. R. A. YERBURGH, M.P.  
*Hon. Sec.*:—Sir EDWARD BOYLE, Bart.  
*Secretary*:—Mr. ARTHUR G. SYMONDS, M.A.

QUEEN ANNE'S CHAMBERS,  
WESTMINSTER,  
LONDON, S.W.

To His Excellency  
Mr. Poincaré

Aug. 1/13

Dear Sir

118.5.112 324 276

I beg to enclose copy of a memorandum issued by  
my committee on the partition of the conquered territories  
between the Balkan States.

Yours faithfully

Arthur G. Symonds  
A.G.S.



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RECOGNITION OF NATIONALITIES.

Recent events in the Balkan peninsula render it necessary to reassert with the utmost emphasis the fundamental condition of a satisfactory settlement. That condition is that the wishes of the local populations shall be taken into account in determining the Government under which any particular part of the country shall be placed.

The Balkan Committee desires to recall to the Powers the undisputed fact that, so far as the wishes of the people are concerned, the bulk of north-western Macedonia is Servian, the bulk of southern Macedonia and Thrace is Greek, while the bulk of central Macedonia and the Monastir district is Bulgarian.

The assertion of this principle of nationality has been the main object of the Balkan Committee since its inception. It recognises, as it has always recognised, that owing to the intermixture of races it would be impracticable to insist on the literal application of the principle in every case; that the need of access to the sea, no less than strategic and economic considerations, must be given full weight, and that a certain amount of give and take is inevitable between the different States. Nevertheless it insists that the wishes of the people concerned must be the first consideration, and it repudiates the assumption that the Balkan peninsula is a blank sheet on which political boundaries should be drawn at will to suit the convenience of Cabinets at Athens, Belgrade, Bucharest or Sofia.

The settlement must in any event contain adequate provisions



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to safeguard the civil and religious rights of minorities. The Committee does not wish to prejudge the question whether that settlement should take the form of a partition of the whole territory between the neighbouring States, or of the creation of autonomous provinces of Macedonia and Thrace. But it insists that no settlement can possibly be enduring, unless it is based upon a full recognition of the wishes of the populations.

Signed on behalf of the Balkan Committee -

NOEL BUXTON, Chairman.

EDWARD BOYLE, Hon. Sec.

ARTEUR G. SYMONDS, Sec.

London, August 1, 1913.