

Grand Hôtel Victoria

Damas, le 5. XI 1910
(SYRIE)

Bring Boyle in
an active manner
young
Please note what Boyle says
about publicity.
Dear host,
in London

I enclose a short memo wh. you
can read to the Committee if you think worth
while: but as it embodies the substance of
private conversations I have marked it "Private".
What I saw in Macedonia, I saw through the
conduct of the various officials: it is impossible
for me to write to the Times, considering the impressions

people anticipate outbreaks of fanaticism both here
in Beirut.

It will be delightful comparing impressions of
Macedonia with you. It is ridiculously expensive, & you
all seem to have left princely traditions. Bonchisi - who
is always called, rather unkindly, "The old deaf one"
seems to have travelled with a cavalcade!

Let me have a line when you can, addressed
to 1 Klif Branch Walk Temple. I hope November
has not brought lumber. Yours 2/24

W.D.

(3)

I formed. The best course is to let you know
- frankly - what we found. Later on Lady Bouverie
will send a letter to the Press.

The best justification for my general view
is that it is the view of everybody. It will take a
long time to make a new man of the old Turk.

I hope the B.C. may be able to do something to
help the Albanians - but I doubt it.

We are now on our way to Jerusalem:
Xians are leaving Syria in their thousands just as fast
than serve in the Turkish army: rightly or wrongly, Cook's

Grand Hôtel Victoria

Damascus 5/10/1910
(SYRIE)

[Private & Confidential]

[Fin & Boyle's name
not to appear].

①
NW. 5/10

Anyone travelling in Macedonia at the present time is met again & again by a saying repeated equally by Bulgarians, Greeks, Albanians, Serbs & Vlachs:— The revolution has set up a hundred tyrants where one reigned before. Never having travelled in the country during the old régime my impressions lack the value that would attach to those of anybody who had had previous experience of ^{it} ~~the country~~ ^{that never can} but this can be said with tolerable confidence ^{that never can} the feelings of the non-Turkish population have been more bitter & resentful than they are today. [Much of this feeling is unjust & the statement quoted above is, as it stands, ridiculous. The young Turk régime has, first of all, given security to private property. Nobody, when pressed, could or would deny this. And the result is everywhere apparent. Buildings appear to be in progress in every town &

every village. In the larger towns whole areas are being developed. In the country districts large tracts of land are obviously being for the first time brought under cultivation. This is really quite an impressive sight. Smurashk (between Costana + Florina) + Zagorichani (near the road to Sorowitch) are good instances, for the former was destroyed in the invasion the latter suffered twice, from the Greeks as well as from the Turks. Bradford found each of them desolate. It is therefore satisfactory that a traveler today finds each of them rebuilt & each surrounded by carefully tilled agricultural land. The same thing is observable elsewhere. Even when traces of the destruction still remain - as at Bobihta near Zagorichani - are finds buildings in progress + considerable agricultural activity: + the village that impressed us most - Costantz, far from a carriage road, over the mountains from Bishkhta - showed well built new houses alternating with ruins the stones of which are used as material, + population that was almost day by day bringing more land under the plough. [Now is it fair to say the Government has done nothing. Occasionally after two or three of the old plank bridges have been stricken, are comes across a new stone bridge of almost imposing proportions. Here and there men are at work on the highway.

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Already between Othuda & Dura an indifferent riding track has been superseded by a wide carriage road: nearly every town has new barracks. The actual state of affairs as regards private property is well illustrated by the following. We stayed for a couple of days at Harro on the far side of the lake of Castoria. Shortly before we arrived the "general store" belonging to a Greek had been rifled & then burnt. The Greek - a reliable & not very cautious person - was full of the conviction of its authenticity with the villainy of his neighbours. Within twenty-four hours of our interview the two culprits were caught at Harasdi (two days journey away) & have been hanged. We have noted, too, private soldiers seeking to purchase below a reasonable sale price, restrained by their companions. Another improvement is the abolition of Tatars within the Empire. At each railway station the police make a record of travellers' names & destinations, but in

no single instance that I could see was any difficulty
made.

Nevertheless it is not difficult to understand ~~rather~~ to
share the feeling of the Christian population, nor is the
saying quoted above altogether without foundation. Resna affords
an instance. Resna is a moderate-sized town, between Ochrida &
Monastir, not a rich town even as towns go in Macedonia.
There as elsewhere there is martial law & Biagi Bey is in
command of the town in his entire control. He has made
large clearances, is building a new Court House & Monastir in
red & white marble, abundantly out of Krespis with the
wealth of the place. He has also built handsome barracks
& the last we saw of him was standing in the middle of
another enormous excavation. He raises much of the money
locally by voluntary subscription. Feeling in the neighbourhood
is very strong about it. In Macedonia today the soldiers
seem everywhere & it is the military spirit that is dominant.
Down the Vardar valley, between Ustikub & Salonika we seemed
to be passing soldiers the whole time: Salonika was full of
them. The Constitution is regarded generally as a letter.
All the big towns are meeting with Chauvinist sentiment &
meeting everywhere on behalf of the navy: in Salonika
processions of camargo with flag & drums collecting boxes

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going round the town the cafes loud with patriotic songs —
the press [~~such a press!~~] stimulates it all by comparing
the "patriotism" of one town with that of another: the
public subscribing their watches & jewels as well as their
cash.

In Salmita we found considerable ill-treatment
of the Greeks, cafes had been wrecked, houses attacked because
painted blue & white. While we were there a French lady
was turned out of a Greek shop forcibly by a soldier, lest
she should make a purchase there. ~~Sir Edwin Pears~~ told us
of similar ~~frank~~ instances in Constantinople. The soldier
is in fact everywhere with his handsome new Kharki uniform
& his new equipment. To regard this as the logical &
inevitable outcome of a military revolution would be a
mistake: all the Englishmen on the spot appear to agree
that wants began to take their present trend only some six
or eight months ago, when the weakness & incapacity of

Constantinople became, in the eyes of the soldiers, apparent, & intolerable.

Everybody has been quoting a speech recently delivered by Dr. Nazim - now a day a "Jingo": "Dr. Nazim is impossible" people say - at the Sabukta Club a paper the Albanian school. The substance of it is that talk of equality between Moslem & Christian is ridiculous: it can never be. The Turk must rule: & hence it follows that the Turkish alphabet must be used everywhere exclusively. So much for "Equality". As to "Fraternity" the universal belief is that if the Turks had the money, they would fight Greece tomorrow.

It is interesting to look over our last "Report" just issued & to read about "a Liberal regime" being the condition of the Anglo-Turkish "entente": for Turkish feeling appears to be definitely hostile to us where it is not indifferent. This is partly due to our official attitude at Constantinople & as to which there is only one opinion out here, partly to our attitude over the loan, & partly I think to a strong & growing hostility to, & suspicion of, our policy in Paris. As English people travelling with a letter from the Grand Vizier we were treated everywhere with the greatest courtesy. As a

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members of the Balkan Committee the Turks took no notice of me whatever. Everywhere one sees German materials: it is the German language that one hears the Turks speaking. Apparently this is reciprocated at home: for the Prince is told by the "Daily Mail" that his alarmist telegrams are not to the taste of a public that is feasting itself on Dr Crippen, & Kears's communications are being cut down in the "Daily News" for the first time in thirty four years.

The questions of the moment are, of course, the disarmament & the Albanian schools. The first is nearly completed, but it has been carried out in such a manner as to have evoked a shimmering resentment on all sides. The evidence is unhappily overwhelming. Men have called at British consulates & have shaken their heads. ^{An} American ~~missionary~~ at Kotecha described to me how he heard victims strutting under its bastinado in the market place

at Elbasan. The Bulgarian bishop of Costoria related many similar atrocities, that promised at my request to send lists of authentic cases from time to time to Adalphi Terrace. The Bulgarian Consul at Monastir has made a similar promise. Our representatives are fully alive to it all & the Embassy is kept constantly informed. Torture brought to bear on peasants as an inducement to give up arms — hands tied behind the back & shoulders dislocated: boiling eggs put in the armpit — the imprisonment of priests, orthodox & anarchist alike for long periods of time — such proceedings are bearing inevitable fruit. Arms are being collected & more than one Episcopal "Palace" is preparing for the inevitable trouble in the future.

As to the Albanian schools, the Turkish attitude is even more unpardonable, for it is an attitude of pure destructiveness. Both Mr. Tyrmas at Monastir & Miss Tyrmas at Korçë gave me figures for the village, within the last few weeks the clubs & schools are practically all closed & the two printing presses are standing idle. Here again it seemed better to obtain the actual details. I have asked Mr. Tyrmas to forward to Bradford a few of the statistics bearing on this matter. Here it anywhere it may not yet be too late for the Balkan

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Committee to bring to bear such influence as it possesses on the young Turks. I found a pretty general impression among the Bulgarians that we had "gone over" to the other side, & I think the visit of Lady Broule myself has been interpreted as evidence that the only desire of the Committee has been to give the new régime a fair chance to prove at once the sincerity of its professions & its capacity to rule.

It would be impossible to overestimate the enormous impression made everywhere by the visit of Bradford & Mrs Bradford.

Again & again we were asked in an out of the way village, "Are you the lady & gentleman who came here some years ago?" One of our consuls (who does not know Bradford) informed us that since the recent cruel (Futule) expedition into their territory just completed, the Albanians are talking about asking to be put under the protection of Great Britain. They have, so the consul says, the vaguest idea of where it is, but

They can never forget the disinterested sympathy displayed both by Bradford & by Mrs Bradford & they would like to be under the protection of a country that produces such people. We ourselves constantly met with the most vivid & grateful recollections of their visit to the country.

I used of course every opportunity of seeing Kain & Calmercan. They seemed to expect praise rather than criticism. "We shall do big things" they said: "Wait 1888". What explained & justified the somewhat irresponsible attitude found almost invariably was the fact that they were figure heads no more. Two out of the three Kain were going for a holiday. Martial law was in force & they could do nothing. One noted a certain naive surprise that we were not pleased. There were the usual adminis. Under officers were perhaps sometimes "in for a drop day": specific instances brought to the notice of the proper authority would doubtless be dealt with. It should be added that - just as before the revolution - civil officials enjoy but an insecure tenure. At Castoria, for example, the Calmercan was the fifth within the year. The orders that come from Constantinople substituting one official for another, whatever their object, have no other effect than still further to diminish his authority.

"The Turk has changed his coat but not his nature" was the

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Opinion we heard expressed on all sides. Never once did we hear an optimistic view - we met many who would be only too easy to be optimistic. We have all expected too much. Our hope should rather be in the generation now growing up: for however we may feel about the question of the home - the disarmament & the schools - no traveller in Macedonia can doubt that with all its faults, the new régime has come to stay & that it is a vast improvement on the old. Small changes for the better strike us at every turn. Strangers are treated generally with courtesy and are even welcomed. Where Bradford found only "barbaric hordes" I found Diction & (of all authors) Victor Hugo. The position of women, not least in the villages, is greatly improved. Turkish gentlemen seemed almost to go out of their way to mention their women folk. Sewing machines are invaluable in the most unexpected places. The best American & German commercial travellers who give the

villagers a good name. It is a grand field for the enterprise of British houses. Our Consuls might do worse than draw their attention to Macedonia.

The changes, in fact, are in many respects far more fundamental than some of us had anticipated, but they are also very different to what some of us had hoped.

~~Edward Doyle.~~

[I shall be back in September.]

SENTINEL HOTEL
YOSEMITE VALLEY
CALIFORNIA

23. VI. 17

Dear Noel,

I think I have been
able to follow most of the
activities of the B.C. during
the past few months, & it is
satisfactory that those of you
who went to Constantinople
returned with such comparatively
favorable impressions. But
~~unless~~ unless the condition of things has

changed considerably in Macedonia
from what it was last autumn, it
is difficult for those who have
recently travelled in the interior
to share your optimism. I saw
a letter from you in the "Times"
some little ~~while~~ ago ^{while} criticising a
very trenchant article of Bouché's.
I haven't the article with me now,
but I remember thinking at the
time how accurate a picture it
gave of the condition of the
country. What is more, I was
able to discuss Bouché's
communications with Lamb at Salonika

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SENTINEL HOTEL
YOSEMITE VALLEY
CALIFORNIA

With Grays at Monastir & with
Kough at Ustjub & I found
they all regarded them as a
fair & accurate presentation of
the situation. Of course, since
the autumn things may have
changed, & I hope they have: but
when I was in Macedonia the
authority of the civil government
was, generally speaking, negligible,
the search for arms was being
conducted out in a manner at once

provocative & brutal, & the policy
towards the schools was one
calculated in the highest degree
to dishearten & to scourge. In a
lecture you gave on March 6 I
see you state that the New régime
do not copy Abdul's policy of
deliberately fostering antagonisms
between the various races. This is
indeed the fact: last autumn I
found, whenever I arrived anywhere
to spend the night, ^{there was} one subject
above all which my host was
anxious to discuss ~~with~~ (whether he
were Greek or Bulgarian) — the

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SENTINEL HOTEL
YOSEMITE VALLEY
CALIFORNIA

immediate need for cooperation
against the common enemy -
That we have been right to
back the young Turk & that we
are right to back him now, I do
not question: but I do say that
unless many things have changed,
the political leaders at Constantinople
know little of what is going on
~~at Constantinople~~ in Macedonia &
have little power to control it.
Remembering as I do the cases of

maltreatment & torture that come
within my own cognizance, the
specific instances constantly brought
to the knowledge of our Council,
the stories told by hardheaded
business men in Salonica who would
soon to be called humanitarians,
I do urge that we accept the
explanations of well intentioned
officials in the capital only after
carefully satisfying ourselves as to
the facts. What we did for them
in their captivity has become a
tradition always the Macedonian

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SENTINEL HOTEL
YOSEMITE VALLEY
CALIFORNIA

peasantry. Especially do they recount
to each other (they often told to me)
what Bradford & Mrs Bradford did.
Our visit satisfied them that the
Committee had not gone over to
the enemy; but the best evidence of
their misgiving & disappointment was
the pleasure they showed at seeing
us.

On leaving the country Lady Boyle
wrote a very moderately worded
letter to the chief London [~] dailies:
only the [~] Daily News inserted it.
A subsequent letter sent to the

Things did not, so far as I
know, appear. People want to
think that things in Macedonia are
proceeding satisfactorily & that is
natural enough; but our Committee
cannot afford to be satisfied
with less than the facts.

I suggest it might be worth while
to communicate with some or
all of the following persons who,
however blessed, are I believe
reliable & honest. :-

The Rev. Phineas Kennedy
American Mission
Kortcha

(5)

SENTINEL HOTEL
YOSEMITE VALLEY
CALIFORNIA

Turks would letter
open every would
Miss Natchinoff
Director of Bulgar School
Ochrida

H.H. The Bulgarian Bishop of Kastoria

Miss Kyrias - Korcha

Mr George Kyrias - Manastir

T. Nedcoff - Bulgarian Consul
Manastir

The secretary to the Bishop of Ochrida
whose name I have not with me
- a man of high cultivation - should
certainly be written to. I myself
will write to Consul Geary.
You must not think that

I quarrel with anything we
said in your letters & speeches. On the
contrary I think we are taking the
right line. But I also think that
now we are backing the Young Turks
it is more than ever incumbent upon
us to have constant & independent
information as to the condition of
the empire: I suggest that individuals
on the Committee shd. make it their
business to secure it. We can then
at once ~~there~~ encourage those who are
working for better things in Macedonia
& more especially assist the genuine
reformers in Constantinople.

Yours ever
Edward B. Clark

ΑΘΗΝΑΪΚΗ ΛΕΣΧΗ

Oct: $\frac{5}{17}$ 1915
Cook's Office

Athen

Dear Noel,

Fitzmaurice is kind

enō to bring this with him.

We never got into Bulgaria.

On arrival at Salonica the wife

looked so serious, I thought

it right not to go to

Sofia unless they really wanted

me. They did: but by the

time I got replies from

O'Berke & Bouchier the
way through from Nish was

stopped. Our impressions in

Serbia are contained in a short

memo that I have sent to

Christian to be circulated to

the S. R. F. Committee. We said

little in it about monasteries, but

conditions there were worse even

than I anticipated: schools closed;

men taken off to the war in

chains; families starving; the city

as if dead. If anybody doubted

the Serbs had no right there

before, they can now be certain
about it. We remain here until
(in case) Sir Ralph Paget comes to
call us back to help him. I was
glad to get away before the
catastrophe. Every Bulgarian I have
met is miserable about it and
unofficially bitter as to our diplomacy.
They should have been given compensation
of Southern Macedonia months ago:
as it is, the offer came too
late & too grudgingly after they
had received "in the hand" the
Deleapatch Railway. If the friends

of Bulgaria in England issue any

manifesto. please add my name.

People in England should know

that the general impression in

the Balkans is that we are

going to be beaten. Venizelos tells

me he believes he still has a

majority, but ventures to doubt it.

My address is "Cooks' Office" here.

Dardanelles news is bad: at best a

winter in the trenches. If the Germans

get to Constantinople it means

water failure. I will not tell you

what I think of Grey or the F.O.!

Love to Mrs Noel to you.

Yours always E.B.

HOTEL MEURICE,
Rue de Rivoli,
P a r i s,

22nd January, 1919.

Noel Buxton, Esq.,
c/o Sir Edward Boyle, Bart.,
1, King's Bench Walk,
Temple, London, E.C.

Dear Noel,

Please see the enclosed. The Committee must not be allowed to die merely because our old friend has become dissatisfied. On the other hand, it may be better for it to appear again under some new name. Let me know your views.

I heard yesterday from our friend J.D.B., who, I am delighted to say, proposes to come out here at the end of the month.

I consider that a memorandum should be prepared and presented to President Wilson which should substantially embody a view which I fear otherwise the Conference will not hear. Perhaps neither you, nor Braylsford, nor I should sign it - though of course I am willing to - but names like Bryce, Mark Sykes, Pears, Aubrey Herbert might carry weight, and perhaps Lady Grogan and my Mother who speak from personal knowledge.

I expect to be here for a month. - I suppose you cannot come over?

Sincerely yours,

E.D.B.

I am more sorry than I tried about N.N. - li

fact I think you polled very well. I am
so glad I have withstood Geoffrey Howards' wiles
maintained my stand point that historic Liberalism
has nothing to do either with Imperialism or
Socialism. Asquith let us down over the me
& L.G. over the other. We must get back to

C. B. Morley.

My love to Mrs Noel.



HÔTEL MEURICE
Rue de Rivoli
PARIS

ADRESSE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE
MEURISOTEL PARIS

Grand Hotel

Ajaccio

21. ii. 19

Dear Noel,

After much talk
with B. we have induced
him to draft a short memo
which could be signed by

(perhaps) Bryce: Lord Lee: Lee?
Lord H Bentinck: A. Herbert:
Lord E. Fitzmaurice: Woods: E. B.
Newson: Brailsford: Lady Gropen:

Should not sign, I should
agree. Anyhow I want to
avoid a Balkan con atmosphere
to make a memo to present
to Wilson on his return, by

independent people.

B. wants Kavala, but I see more
official people than he does a con
judge atmosphere better than his
depths enable him to do. Fez his

is dead against us. We must not
ask impossibilities. We must, I am

convinced go back to the Macedonian
State ^{Chow: without Kavala} idea. We shall be lucky

If we still know Sedragatch, tho'

John Watson supports in there, takes
as to the Enos Indian line. I
have seen the Col. Mayne who
has been doing atrocities for the
~~English~~ Serbs. His impressions were
not very grave but the report is
stronger. I rather than he would
have drafted it.

I beg you to give attention
to these two matters will send B's
memo to you perhaps tomorrow. I
hope to be back in Paris in
a month.

Yours ever
E.B.

My love to Mrs Noel, please-

B himself (?): Peers: my
matter: not you or C. R. B. !!!

I leave for Wroce
tomorrow. Could you get this

printed and circulated for
signature either yourself or

(Wray) through him silver? Also
please get this to send B.

at once 12 copies of the

Carnege Report to B. at

Hotel Albany, Rue de Rivoli —

for Borden rather open minded

people?

If you think Bradford a

1. KINGS BENCH WALK. TEMPLE. E.C.

20th February 1925.

Dear Charles,

Thanks for your note. I have, of course, had the Greek refusal in mind and have talked the matter over more than once at the Bulgarian Legation. Mishev is against our taking the matter up in view of the attitude of the F.O. As you know, Nicolson is now in charge of the Near East Department and has little sympathy with our point of view. Chamberlain, I understand, welcomes the action of Greece since it avoids a grave crisis in Serbo-Greek relations. I had proposed not merely a Balkan Committee manifesto, but had begged Noel to raise the matter in the House. Mishev considers that this would annoy the F.O. without benefiting Bulgaria. In view of what are his wishes, I doubt if we can do anything in that direction.

We may, however, take the opportunity of raising the whole question of minorities. As to this, I have written to Gilbert Murray who tells me that

Thanks -
And like to meet
Greece Bulgaria
Protocol
A
Geneva 1925

the Greeks have solemnly undertaken to carry out the Treaty obligations to all minorities, and have asked to have the question put down on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Council. The best course, I think, would be to get into touch with the Parliamentary Association of the League of Nations which contains 300 members and of which Lord Hartington is the Secretary. I will ring you up early next week and try and get you to Lunch with me some day when you can conveniently do so.

Yours very sincerely,

E.B.

Sir E Boyle Hall

C.R. Buxton Esq.,
6, Erskine Hill,
Golders Green.
N.W.

TELEGRAMS, 40 TEMPLE.
TELEPHONE, 2465 CENTRAL.

1. KINGS BENCH WALK. TEMPLE. E.C.

14th June 1928.

Dear Noel,

I returned to London from Germany on Monday and will lose no time in getting into touch with Steed. The present position is this: Sir Harry Lamb prepared a memorandum which Steed has undertaken to forward to the right quarter. He will explain that this memorandum is one for which the Macedonians have no responsibility, but that he is in a position to say quite definitely that if the S.H.S. Government are prepared to make certain proposals on some such lines as are put forward by Lamb, he has good reason to believe that responsible leaders of Macedonian opinion will study them carefully. He has been told to add that the matter is one of urgency, and that if no answer is forthcoming,

the effort to find a basis of compromise will be dropped. I am writing to Steed to-day, and will let you know what he says. Newinson has been in the negotiations all along, and I asked him, supposing the negotiations broke down during my absence, to call a Balkan Committee and to take whatever action appeared desirable.

With regard to Albania, we forwarded ^a the memorandum to the Secretary General of the League on the lines desired by the Albanian Minister here.

Yours always,

E. B.

The Right Hon. Noel Buxton, M.P.,
12, Rutland Gate,
S.W.7.

Please let me have the enclosed back.

B C
Boyle

2nd November 1939.

Dear Riley,

Thank you for your letter of October 29th., which I have now had an opportunity of talking over with the Bulgarian Minister. The Minister is most emphatic that we ought not to publish anything or take any act at this juncture. He takes the view that publicity by our Committee would look abroad as if the Foreign Office were promoting Balkan unity as a counter move to Germany, and this would make the position of all Balkan Governments extremely difficult. He told me that negotiations are in fact active between them at this moment, and the hope is that at no very distant date Balkan unity will be an accomplished fact. The difficulty remains, of course, the Dobrudja. It is possible there that some slight concession may be made by Roumania, especially now that an arrangement has been reached with Hungary

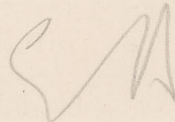
and she has no fear of pressure in that direction. The Macedonians I am afraid are in touch with the Germans and the Bulgarians will no doubt have to be content with an economic outlet and not a territorial outlet on the South. All the States in South Eastern Europe are conscious that their only safety from dangers from the West, and even from the North, is to be found in unity, and I infer that Turkey and Hungary, too, are watching all this with benevolence. The fundamental point is that whatever is done must be done by the Balkan Governments themselves and not by friendly pressure from outside.

Since this I have seen the Yugoslav Minister who takes exactly the same view. He tells me that all the Balkan Ministers, including the Bulgarian, are now meeting regularly together, and here in London their great preoccupation is that with as little delay as possible they should reach a general understanding.

This will mean heavy sacrifices for Bulgaria but the alternative dangers are greater. It would manifestly be desirable that this agreement should be reached before the Bulgarian elections. The present Government is, as you know, a Government of Officials with no party behind it. The Agrarian, who are the largest single party, are greatly under the inspiration of Russia.

From the above I conclude that our proper course is not to publish anything. I am sending copies of this to Noel and to Victor Casalet.

Yours very sincerely,



Ben Riley Esq., M.P.

EB

The Manor House,
Cheselbourne,
Dorchester,
Dorset.

October, 1944.

Dear Noel,

Many thanks for sending me those two books, they will form the nucleus of the new library of the Balkan Committee which may yet arise ~~the~~ literally from the ashes of the old group.

Thank you for your notes on the draft. I am not sure that federation necessarily implies one unit ~~and~~ ^{for the} whole of South-Eastern Europe. I have not Bourchir's book with me, and I fancy he used the word; but perhaps something like co-operation or union would be better. If Macedonia is a future unit it can, I think, only be Yugoslav, and possibly Bulgarian, Macedonia. Greek Macedonia has, I should say, gone for good. I share your view that the Greeks will be horribly suspicious of the scheme, and it will have to be made clear to them that they would definitely gain by it. They would get ethnographical frontiers, they would get security from invasion by Bulgaria, and I should hope also economic advantages by means of lower tariffs. They might have in

return to give the Bulgarians an outlet on the Aegean,
perhaps at Salonica, but ^{not} a territorial corridor.

Goad raises the point, I think rightly, that we ought
to mention ~~Albania~~. I would propose that we should insert
the words "Albania would certainly have everything to gain
from coming into such a federation or (union of States".)
Goad wants to add that Albania might come in wherever she
has a good cause for a wider frontier (than an immediate
neighbour might be disposed to accord to her), but I am
rather doubtful whether it is wise as things are to-day to
put forward Albanian claims either in Kossovo or in the
South.

I should like to have your views on these points
before I circulate an amended draft.

Yours always,

Edward Boyle

I am circulating this.
How hard it is to get
an agreed draft from
a committee!

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For more than forty years the Balkan Committee has urged that only by getting together and accepting some form of federation could the various nations of South Eastern Europe protect their best interests, their safety as individual states, their external and internal peace, and their economic well-being. Persistent efforts to this end were made during the period between the two wars, both by individual statesmen in the Balkans and also by friends of the Balkan peoples in this country and elsewhere. Those efforts failed, but it was never more obvious than it is to-day that the future of all these peoples must be in federation. Federation is not the best solution, it is the only solution.

The present appears to be a propitious moment at which once more, to raise the issue. The new Government in Rumania is working actively and whole-heartedly with the Allies. The new Government in Bulgaria has made a clean break with the past, and represents the true feelings of the Bulgarian peasant. In Yugoslavia the policy of internal federation has been accepted by the King, and the ideas of Marshal Tito, Minister of War, are calculated to bring the long and bitter quarrel about Macedonia to conclusion. The internal troubles of Greece, fruits of her immense suffering, are gradually finding their solution, and side by side with her neighbours, she too will be ready for a fresh start. In each country of the Balkans we may hope that new men, schooled in the grievous experiences of the immediate past, will recognize a unique

opportunity.