

TELEPHONE,  
GERRARD 3209.

less cogent than previous note

Chamberlain

6, BELGRAVE SQUARE,  
S.W.

May 22 1915

Dear Barton,

I have just been reading your book and am impelled to write because I so entirely share your views.

[I cannot help thinking, strange though it may seem, that the enormous impatience of satisfying Bulgaria has been somewhat overlooked. Bulgaria is not only the natural enemy of the Turk, but is the key to the whole Balkan situation, and yet here we are actually fighting Turkey whilst Bulgaria (and Greece also) stand aside as spectators! There is no mystery with regard to the Bulgarian attitude.] The Minister here (H. M.) has been quite open in conversation with me, and I presume that he holds the same language to Grey. [To put it shortly, Bulgaria will be delighted to attack Turkey as soon as the allies will guarantee the restoration of the territory lost after the last war] and I gather that this is ~~now~~ ~~less~~ ~~excused~~ with the exception of Cavalla is the chief obstacle.

[It is quite intelligible that both Greece and Serbia should refuse to cede voluntarily any territory now in their possession, but it is not improbable that they might do so if pressure were put upon them from outside. I gather from Heli Mircheff that the difficulty in doing so arises chiefly from ~~the~~ excessive consideration for our allies, (France & Russia).

but ~~that~~ surely we could afford to take the initiative, and I understand that pressure from us would be less resented than from any other Power, because our disinterestedness is generally recognized.] Of course I am not behind the scenes, and there may be difficulties of which I know nothing, but prima facie it appears to me almost inconceivable that we should be spending between 2 and 3 millions a day, with the prospect of doing so indefinitely, when more than a million soldiers from the Balkan states are to be had if a bargain is struck. and - as far as I am concerned - I can't see how we are to end this war without bringing in fresh forces. If it is a question of money, a sum representing two or three weeks of our present expenditure would probably do all that is necessary. If it is a question of territory, it surely the diplomacy of the allies ought to be able to effect the transfer of a trumpery place like Cavalla.

I have no wish to embarrass the F.O. and am therefore reluctant to take part in any public agitation, but I do wish that something could be done to emphasize the obvious impatience of this question

Yrs sincerely  
Newton

P.S. The whole of this is ~~elementary~~ elementary obvious, but sometimes the obvious is lost sight of.