

N° 738.

GRÈCE

**Proposition relative à la protection
des minorités bulgares en Grèce.
Genève, le 29 septembre 1924.**

GREECE

**Proposal relating to the Protection
of Bulgarian Minorities in Greece.
Geneva, September 29, 1924.**

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 738. — PROPOSAL² SUBMITTED BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AND ACCEPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS, WITH REGARD TO THE PROTECTION OF BULGARIAN MINORITIES IN GREECE, SIGNED AT GENEVA, SEPTEMBER 29, 1924.

French official text registered October 3, 1924, following the deposit of this Instrument with the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

The Greek Government, being desirous of ensuring equitable treatment to persons belonging to the Bulgarian minority in Greece, in accordance with the clauses dealing with the protection of minorities in the Treaty between the Principal Allied Powers signed, at Sèvres, August 10, 1920, submits the following proposal to the League of Nations.

The Council of the League of Nations, at its meeting of September 29, 1924, after having noted the proposal of the Greek Government, has decided to accept it.

I.

Colonel A. C. Corfe and Major Marcel de Roover, appointed by the League of Nations as members of the Greco-Bulgarian Mixed Emigration Commission, will undertake, as special representatives of the League of Nations, to assist the Greek Government in its efforts to achieve the object mentioned above, during the term of their appointment to the Commission.

II.

For this purpose, Colonel Corfe and Major de Roover will act as an advisory body for Bulgarian minority questions in Greece. They will be entitled to give advice to the Greek Government as to the rapid execution of the provisions of the Treaty relating to the protection of minorities. For this purpose, they will undertake an enquiry on the spot into the needs of persons belonging to the minorities, especially in the matter of education and public worship, and they will jointly submit to the said Government reports on the measures to be taken.

They will be at liberty to collect any information which may seem to them desirable or helpful in their work. The representative of the Greek Government on the Mixed Emigration Commission will be bound to assist them in their work by all the means at his disposal and will receive instructions and full powers for this purpose from his Government.

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

² In accordance with a letter from the Hellenic Chargé d'Affaires at Berne, of February 11, 1925, this Proposal was rejected by the Greek National Assembly on February 3, 1925.

III.

Colonel Corfe and Major de Roover will also be entitled to receive individual or collective petitions from persons belonging to the minority in question who consider that the rights accorded to them under the Treaty have been infringed. These petitions must be directed towards the protection of the minorities in conformity with the Treaty and must not be aimed at the sovereignty of the State. The petitions must come from a well-known and established source and must not be written in violent language.

After examination of each petition, Colonel Corfe and Major de Roover will give their joint opinion as to the manner in which the matter can be settled, in accordance with the stipulations of the Treaty and taking into consideration the methods of recourse, whether judicial or administrative, open to the petitioners in Greece.

This opinion will be forwarded to the member of the Mixed Commission representing the Greek Government, and he will endeavour to settle the matter on the spot — for which purpose he will receive instructions and full powers from his Government. If he cannot settle the matter on the spot, he will send the opinion to his Government, which will inform Colonel Corfe and Major de Roover as quickly as possible of its decision thereon.

This procedure will not in any way affect the procedure established by the Council of the League of Nations with regard to minority petitions.

IV.

Colonel Corfe and Major de Roover will be required to submit to the Secretary-General of the League, under whose guarantee the stipulations of the Minority Treaties are placed, a detailed report every six months on their work in connection with the present scheme.

Before the expiration of the term of office of Colonel Corfe and Major de Roover on the Greco-Bulgarian Mixed Emigration Commission, the Greek Government will come to an agreement with the League of Nations as to the measures to be taken to ensure the continued protection of the Greek minority in Bulgaria, in accordance with the spirit of the present scheme.

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The stipulations of the present scheme will come into force as from to-day.

In witness whereof, the present Instrument has been signed.

Done at Geneva, in duplicate, on September 29, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-four.

*The Representative
of the Hellenic Government :*
(Signed) POLITIS.

*The President of the Council
of the League of Nations :*
(Signed) HYMANS.

*The Secretary-General
of the League of Nations :*
(Signed) ERIC DRUMMOND.