

# FOREIGN CONTROL IN MACEDONIA PROPOSED

## Plan for Joint Administration Like That in Crete.

### POWERS NOW NEGOTIATING

#### Project Originates with Austria and Russia—It Is Believed the Other Countries Except Germany Will Approve It.

LONDON, Dec. 5.—Negotiations begun yesterday by the powers may result in an international administration for Macedonia along the lines observed in the present government of the Island of Crete.

The Associated Press learns that in order to prevent another Macedonian uprising in the Spring, attended by unspeakable horrors, and the danger of a war between Turkey and Bulgaria as a consequence, Russia and Austria have proposed to the other powers that immediate steps be taken to put into operation a plan which in its general outline resembles that now enforced in Crete.

This proposal is the result of the acceptance in principle by the Sultan of the Russo-Austrian note concerning reforms in Macedonia, which was submitted to the Porte after the recent conference between the Czar and Emperor Francis Joseph.

To what extent each power will participate in the organization of an international gendarmerie to be formed for the preservation of order and which power will be placed in supreme command of the gendarmerie, as well as other details, must be settled by the negotiations between the powers.

This proposal of the two powers dissipates the apprehension which has prevailed in diplomatic circles on the Continent that Russia and Austria were arranging a settlement of the Macedonian question in a way to insure their own interests.

According to the information obtained by The Associated Press, the powers will this time unite in the appointment of a Christian Governor of Macedonia. While it is intended that the Christians shall be protected, there is also a determination that equal protection shall be accorded to the Mussulmans.

All the powers concerned are anxious to settle the difficulties in the Balkans so that they can no longer menace the peace of Europe.

It is believed that results identical with those obtained in Crete are likely to follow from the enforcement of a similar policy in Macedonia. At first a large force was sent to Crete, but at present there are not more than 1,600 men there, representing the Governments of Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy.

How the Russo-Austrian proposal will be received by the powers is not known, as its presentation only took place yesterday. It is believed, however, that it will be acceptable to France, Italy, and Great Britain, but that it is likely to be opposed by Germany.

Though this proposed action will be another step toward the separation of Macedonia from Turkey, there is nothing in the proposal to indicate that the powers have any intention of weakening Turkish ownership of the territory. As the Sultan accepted the principle of the Russo-Austrian note, it follows as a natural consequence that he will not be likely to oppose the enforcement of the reforms which that note contemplated.

The last insurrection of the Christians in Crete against Ottoman rule, occasioning an invasion of the island by Greek volunteers, led to the interference of the great powers.

In 1896 the naval forces of Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, and Russia blockaded the coast of the island to prevent the arrival of arms and reinforcements, and military detachments occupied the ports to preserve order. The Germans and Austrians afterward withdrew from the blockade.

The Sultan finally granted an autonomous Government to Crete, and by November, 1898, all the Turkish garrisons were withdrawn. Since then Crete has been administered, under the "suzerainty" of the Porte, by a High Commissioner acting on behalf of Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy.

The High Commissioner is Prince George of Greece, second son of the King of the Hellenes. He is in supreme command of the military forces, and appoints the Ministers, who take part in the discussions of the Chamber without having the power to vote.

The representatives at Rome of the protecting powers decide questions affecting the foreign relations of Crete.