

and future of the nation and which I kept to myself in my own consciousness as a national secret.

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My first object now, Gentlemen, was to get into touch with the whole of the Army.

In a telegram in cipher, on the 21st May, 1919, I told the commander of XVth Army Corps at Erzurum that I was greatly distressed at the seriousness of our general situation; that I had accepted my present position in the certainty that it would be possible to fulfil our highest duty towards the nation and the country if we worked together with all our strength; that although I had wanted to go to Erzurum before this, I was obliged to remain for a few days longer at Samsun, because serious events were threatening the position there, which was very uncertain. I further asked him, if he thought it necessary, to keep me well informed about anything I ought to know. (Document 10.)

In fact, the position had been made considerably worse by attacks that had been made by Greek bands against the Mohamedans at Samsun and its surroundings, as well as many difficulties that had been placed in the way of the local government by foreign interference, the former being incapable of rendering any resistance.

Whilst I was undertaking steps to secure the appointment of a person well known to us and from whom we expected a great deal as Mutasarrif of Samsun, I provisionally appointed the commander of the XIIIth Army Corps Governor of Canik. Besides this, we took all steps that were possible on the spot itself: that is to say, we enlightened the population as to the real state of affairs and told them that they need not be alarmed about foreign bodies of troops or their officers being among them, and to do nothing to resist them. The formation of national organizations was immediately undertaken in this district.

On the 23rd May, 1919, I informed the commander of the XXth Army Corps at Ankara that I had arrived at Samsun and would keep in close touch with him. I requested him to inform me about everything he could ascertain concerning the district of Izmir.

Before I had left Istanbul I had turned my attention to the position of this Army Corps. It had been suggested that it should be transported by rail from the south to the district of Ankara, but being well aware of the resistance attending this, I asked Cevat Paşa, the Chief of the General Staff,

during the days preceeding my departure from Istanbul to lead the Army Corps to Ankara on foot, in case the transport by rail would involve any delay. For this purpose, I inquired in the telegram in cipher I have already mentioned, whether all the units belonging to the XXth Army Corps would succeed in reaching Ankara. After having added certain information about the district of Canik, I announced that in a few days I would be going with my Staff from Samsun to Havza for some time and that I hoped, in any case, to receive the required information before my departure.

In his reply, which arrived three days later, on the 26th May, the commander of the XXth Army Corps reported that he had not received any regular communication from Izmir; that the occupation of Manisa had been reported by telegraph office employees, that the detachments belonging to the Army Corps stationed at Ereğli had already left on foot as it was impossible to transport them by rail, but that, because of the great distance they had to march, it was uncertain when they would arrive. In the same telegram the commander of the Corps remarked that the actual strength of the 23rd Division at Afyonkarahisar was low and that for this reason all the men that could be mustered had been ordered to join this division. He added that news had recently been received about local unrest in the districts of Kastamonu and Kayseri, and that he would keep me well informed. (Document 11.)

In a despatch dated the 27th May, 1919, from Havza, I ordered the commander of the XXth Army Corps and the Army Inspection at Konya, under whose command this Corps was, to inform me from what sources the reinforcements destined for the division at Afyonkarahisar were being drawn; whether there was any practical possibility of reinforcing them and what in the present circumstances their duty would be. (Documents 12 — 13.)

On the 28th May the commander of the Corps gave me the information I had been awaiting: "In case of any attempt at occupation by the enemy, the 23rd Division will not surrender its position, but if it is attacked it will defend it, recruiting reinforcements from among the inhabitants." (Document 14.)

On the 30th May the Inspector of the Army replied: "While maintaining order and security at Karahisar at the same time, the 23rd Division will resist any attempt at occupation with all the means at their disposition." He reported that he was making all preparations and that he was trying to collect reinforcements at Konya, but that it had no name or title.

In my telegram to the Army Inspector, I had said: "Rumours are in circulation about the raising of an army at Konya which is called the 'Patriotic