

H.E. The Minister of Education.
Ministry of Education
Ankara Turkey.

*See J.G.
28/12/51*

Your Excellency,

We are most anxious to invite your personal attention to the situation ~~xxxxxxx~~ of two British archaeological expeditions, invited to collaborate with your antiquities Department in excavations next spring.

First of these is our own expedition, headed by the Director, Mr. Seton Lloyd, which excavated in the spring of 1951 at Sultantepe in the Vilayet of Urfa. This excavation was conducted by Mr. Lloyd in collaboration with a representative of your Ministry each party contributing one half of the expenses. It resulted in the discovery of a very important collection of cuneiform tablets, only a portion of which could ~~be~~ ~~removed~~ at the time be removed to the Ankara Museum, the remainder being left ~~xxxxxx~~ under guard at the expense of this Institute. For the assurance of individuals by whom our excavating funds are contributed, ~~the~~ Director had in November 1951 requested from the ~~Antiquities Department~~ Ministry some written confirmation of its intention to ~~xxxxxxx~~ resume this work in the spring of 1952 and some definition of the terms of collaboration. The reply is in a letter ~~xxxxxxx~~ numbered..... and signed on your Excellency's behalf on..... If we may refer your Excellency personally to this letter, it will be seen that it appears to postpone indefinitely any official decision on this matter, thereby placing us in a position of some embarrassment, both in relation to the funds which we have collected and to the further appeal which we are making.

The second expedition is that sponsored by ourselves and the Russell Trust, for the continued excavation of the Palace of the Byzantine Emperors at Istanbul, and for the preservation of the mosaics already discovered there in previous years. The leader of this expedition, Professor Talbot Rice, visited Ankara in April 1951 and was favoured by an interview with the Director General of Antiquities, at which he outlined his own plan for the future work of the expedition in collaboration with your Ministry. The proposal which he thus approved, was submitted by Professor Rice in writing to the Antiquities Department in July 1951. Owing no doubt to Departmental changes, no acknowledgement of this letter was received by the Russell Trust, and in November 1951 Mr. Seton Lloyd was informed verbally that the proposal was, in part at least, unacceptable. Since Professor Rice is engaged in making the somewhat elaborate arrangements necessary for a large scale expedition he is naturally anxious at least to be in communication with the Department concerned and to receive some official confirmation from them of the proposal ~~xxxx~~ which they themselves provisionably approved.

With so few weeks remaining before the work of both expeditions is due to begin, we have no doubt that your Excellency will appreciate the urgency of our request for your personal attention, and our confidence that your consideration will be in line with the courtesy and friendly collaboration which we have unfailingly received from all official quarters in Turkey since the foundation of this Institute.

We remain etc.

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