

Recto (4801-51a)Confidential

To Consul General of Turkey

May I ask you to forward to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Turkey, this telegram. Your Majesty as head of the Mussulmin Faith must know far better than I do, that the False Prophet threatens Your Majesty's spiritual authority, and that if he is allowed to capture Kartoum and the other towns which now hold out, he will by his emissaries, raise the Hedjaz, Syria, Palestine and Damascus. The presence of 3000 of Your Majesty's troops supported by the ʔ in ... Majesty's name ... a cost of ... suppress the revolt and destroy the ... could raise the necessary funds, by mortgaging the customs ... of Suakin and Massawah, which ports belong to the ... and whose revenues should be applied to the safety ... Soudan. If the beleaguered towns fall, Your Majesty may be sure that all the Hedjaz will rise, for the False Prophet's prestige will be then immense. We can hold out for five months, and I believe if Your Majesty sends these men these men will not have to fire a shot, the rebels will dissolve as ice before fire.

Gordon Kartoum
 16 April 84

Verso (4801-51a)

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To Consuls General of Austria Hungary, Germany, Italy, Russia, and to His Holiness the Pope.

May I ask you to forward to Their Majesties, the Emperors of Austria Hungary, Germany, Russia, the King of Italy, and His Holiness the Pope, this telegram. May I ask Your Holiness, and Your Majesties, to consider in what [way] you can prevent the impending flood of Darvisch fanatics disturbing the peace of the East. It is evident that the ... and the neighbouring towns are the only bulwark ... the False Prophet to Red Sea; Hedjaz; Palestine, and Syria ... We can hold out well, for five months, but it is evident that unless relieved we must eventually succumb and the False Prophet will flood the countries I have named. Three thousand men could settle the whole affair, in three or four months with an expenditure of 300 000 £. Is it possible for Your Majesties to relax your laws, and let your subjects volunteer to come to our succour, and could not Your Majesties allow volunteer subscription to cover the expenses. The question is one of civilization agst the worse form of ascetic fanaticism, headed by an impious adventurer, who is condemned by the very religion he claims to belong to.

Gordon

15.4.84
Kartoum