No 9

U. S. Consulate at
Jerusalem Dec 27 1877

Hon W. Hunter
Second Assistant Secretary of State
Washington D. C.

Sir

I send as Enclosures, Nos. 1 & 2 Copies of No 63 from Mr deHass, and 72 from Mr Hardegg, as per your request, in despatch No 7, of date Nov 15th 1877

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your obedient servant
J. G. Willson
U S Consul.

(Signed)

No 10

U. S. Consulate at
Jerusalem Dec 28th 1877

Hon W Hunter
Second Assistant Secretary of State
Washington D C

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of despatch No 8, Nov 15, 1877, and I beg leave to reply as follows, viz:

1 There is not a line or word in the Official Records of the Consulate in regard to the Bodge passport subject

2 All that I know is from unofficial sources and this information was communicated to the Department of State, in despatches, Nos, 2, 3, 5, 6,

3 I send as enclosure No 1 & 2 at your request a copy of the Lists of the names, Verbatim et literatim, without date or signature or seal, or any thing to make it an official paper

Joseph Gabriel who was then Dragoman informs me that the Lists were made by him, under the direction of Mr DeHass, and that they are correct, as he believes.

4 There are no dates, to the Lists, and neither names nor dates in the official Records, but I have reason to believe that the papers, were issued during the month of May, 1877, commencing about May 1st.

5, I do

5 I do not learn that the persons receiving these "protection" have receipts for the money paid for them

6 In my despatches Nos 2, 3, 5, 6, I gave a history of the transactions, and asked three questions, embracing, as I supposed the pivotal points of the subject. In your despatch No 8 you do not reply to any of these questions — The Pacha courteously promised to wait until I should hear from the Department, the persons holding the protection papers, meanwhile remaining undisturbed by the local authorities; but I fear that I shall be unable to induce the Pacha to wait much longer

7 The Pacha claims that these men are Turkish subjects — having suffered their Russian nationality to lapse, and that all, or nearly all, Russian subjects applied for and obtained letters of protection from the German Consul

8. There are no papers in the U. S. Consulate showing the proper nationality of any of the so-called protegés

9 In conclusion I may say, that the Pacha maintains that these men holding protection papers from Mr deHass, are Turkish subject, and that the papers which they hold will not be recognized by the local authorities, unless an order to that effect be obtained from the sublime Porte at Constantinople

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your obedient Servant
J. G. Willson
U S Consul.

Signed

Two Enclosures

No 1 & 2 Copies of lists of names of protegés