

Ld. Wm. Bentinck appointed to Sicily 1811, Ld. Wellesley resigned F.O. Jan 1812

Greece = the Archipelago Crete  
 respectfully submitted to Margues Wellesley  
 by R. G. Mills

The Policy of the french is evidently to acquire  
 a great control on the Archipelago — + to create  
 if possible a large maritime force in that  
 Quarter — that of Russia tends to the  
 same point —

The Turkish Power is evidently on the  
 wane. + some power must replace  
 its sway over Greece —

to prepare + pave the way to a  
 commanding influence south of Sicily  
 must surely be in the contemplation  
 of Government —

of all the Turkish Possessions the Island  
 of Crete in those parts would be to  
 us the most valuable for under  
 any other government than that of  
 the Porte its population would  
 increase ten fold + its political  
 importance would be to this Country



be great — but to wrest it from  
 the Turks by force is out of the question  
 the only way that offers itself for  
 eventually annexing it (if not to British  
 dominion at least to British control)  
 is to establish in it as Resident or  
 Consul or agent an intelligent  
 zealous active man who would  
 neglect no means which local  
 knowledge puts in his power of  
 attaching the natives to the British  
 cause or at least of frustrating  
 the plans & views of other Powers  
 from this Island an Angus  
 observation may be kept up on  
 the adjacent Isles & coast & much  
 valuable information may from  
 time to time be transmitted to  
 our Resident at Palermo



? 1811

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on Constantinople —

What led to those glorious results  
 on the East! — that wise Policy of commanding  
 a thorough knowledge of the views & intentions  
 of every State great or little in the East —  
 what has given to France such advantages  
 over England in all foreign relations  
 — the active use she has made  
 of the Prep + these ceaseless activity  
 thro the organ of intelligent agents.  
 our Government doubtless with a view  
 to laudable economy, have always been  
 peculiarly backward in multiplying  
 agents to forward their views, the  
 consequence has been that schemes have  
 advanced to such a state of perfection  
 unopposed to English interest before  
<sup>has been</sup> ~~discussed~~ that to counteract them has  
 cost 20 or 50 times the expense  
 which would have been sufficient to prevent  
 their ever having had birth —  
 if these short observations appear just  
 to the Marquis of Wellesley — perhaps he will



accede to the proposal I now make of going  
to Crete or any other part of Greece  
in the capacity as above stated —

there is a gentleman well known to Lord  
Bellevue who would have no objection  
to accompany me & whose means of being  
useful are peculiarly extensive —  
Mr Leche — but as it cannot be  
denied that the ardency of his zeal has  
led him into the error of giving too  
great publicity to his sentiments ground  
on information obtained by much

labour & enquiry I would not propose  
that he should go as a principal  
he himself is just enough to  
acknowledge the reasonableness of the

objections against his being an  
accredited British agent — at the  
delicate crisis — in naming Mr Leche

I simply state my own wish — he has offered  
to accompany and assist me if I can get the  
appointment I wish but has not authorized me to  
name him to Government — if the above proposal  
cannot be complied with the next favor I would as  
in that of being recommended to Lord Belkirk for employment  
should be offered — as I purpose going to Malta —  
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