VOLUME XIV · WWI INTELLIGENCE & COMSEC (1914–1918) · BOA DH.EUM., HR.SYS., HR.SFR.3, DH.KMS.

WWI Ottoman Intelligence, Counter-Espionage & Cryptographic Security (1914–1918)

Sofia Military Attaché Lt. Col. Mustafa Kemal Bey as Cipher Courier (5 August 1914), Talat Pasha's Order to Seize Russian Consular Keys, the Dardanelles Consular Blackout, Ottoman Navy Key-Burning Protocols & British Cable Censorship

Dossier Overview: Whereas Volume IX decoded the civilian Interior Ministry (`DH.ŞFR.`) WWI codebooks, this companion volume documents the parallel **cryptographic intelligence war** waged across **Emniyet-i Umûmiye (`DH.EUM.`)**, the **General Staff 2nd Branch (Military Intelligence)**, the **Ottoman Navy**, and the **Foreign Ministry Cipher Bureau (`HR.SYS.` / `HR.SFR.3`)** through 12 primary archival witnesses.

1. Wartime Cryptographic Operations & COMSEC Cases (1914–1916)

`BOA, HR.SYS. 2185/10` `5 August 1914`

Sofia Military Attaché (Lt. Col. Mustafa Kemal Bey) as Cipher Key Courier

Three days after the Ottoman-German secret alliance, Ottoman Minister Cevad Bey in Nish telegraphs Grand Vizier Saîd Halim Pasha via the Bureau de la Correspondance Chiffrée requesting urgent dispatch of cipher keys to Sofia 'so that our military attaché [Lt. Col. Mustafa Kemal Bey] can bring them to me.'

`BOA, DH.ŞFR. 47/247` `November 1914`

Talat Pasha's Order to Seize Russian Consuls' Cipher Keys

Signed personally by Talat Pasha on Emniyet-i Umûmiye letterhead to Caucasus Front provinces (Erzurum, Trabzon, Diyarbekir, Van, Bitlis): in retaliation for forced seizures of Ottoman consular keys, search Russian consuls and their belongings to capture their cipher keys.

`BOA, DH.EUM.EMN. 90/30 & 82/45` `1914`

Dardanelles Foreign Consular Cipher Blackout & General Staff 2nd Branch

General Staff 2nd Branch (Military Intelligence) and the Dardanelles Fortified Zone Command ban foreign consuls from transmitting encrypted telegrams and confiscate consular dispatches at Çanakkale.

`BOA, HR.SFR.3... 704/68` `28 September 1914`

Ottoman Navy Cipher Rotation & Mandatory Key-Burning Order (London Naval Attaché)

Signed on behalf of the Navy Minister by the Naval Chief of Staff: dispatches new Naval Cipher Key No. 6 to the London Naval Attaché and mandates formal documented burning ('bâ-lâyiha ihrâkı') of the superseded key — one month before the Black Sea Raid.

`BOA, HR.SFR.3... 713/55` `2 September 1914`

British Wartime Cable Censorship: Intercepting Encrypted Ottoman Traffic to Washington

Aide-mémoire filed with the British Foreign Office (2 Sept 1914) protesting the British General Post Office's detention of an encrypted Ottoman diplomatic telegram bound for Washington.

`BOA, DH.KMS. 24/52 & 24/22 · DH.ŞFR. 42/238` `1914–1915`

Black Sea Fleet-Watch Cipher, Key-Burning Protocol & Compromised Iran/Caucasus Key

Black Sea coast-watch naval intelligence cipher network (24/52), emergency revocation of a compromised Iran/Caucasus consular key (42/238), and official burning certificate of the 'third-type' cipher key (24/22, May 1915).

`BOA, DH.EUM.EMN. 114/5 & DH.EUM.SSM. 4/3` `1914–1916`

Emniyet-i Umûmiye Counter-Intelligence & Hanekin Border Key Receipt

Red-ink Emniyet-i Umûmiye Intelligence Directorate counter-espionage dossier on Cairo / Italian espionage / Sheikh Senussi (114/5), paired with the sealed Hanekin Border Intelligence cipher key receipt (4/3, Feb 1916).

2. Archival Plates (12 Primary Witnesses — Click to Zoom)

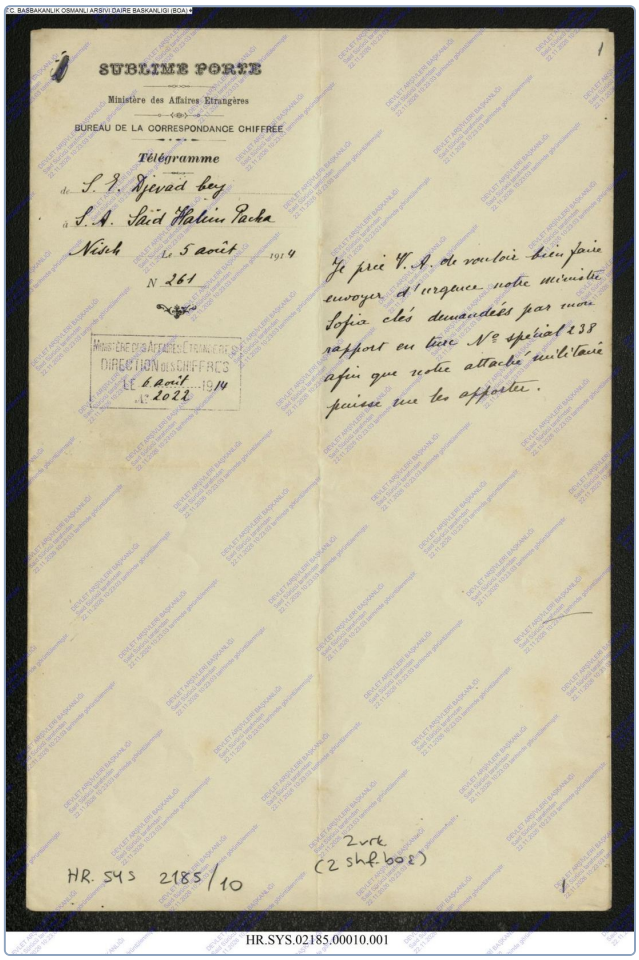


Plate 1 · BOA, HR.SYS. 2185/10 (5 August 1914 · Nish → Porte)

Cevad Bey (Nish) to Grand Vizier Saîd Halim Pasha requesting urgent dispatch of cipher keys to Sofia for courier delivery by Military Attaché Mustafa Kemal Bey.

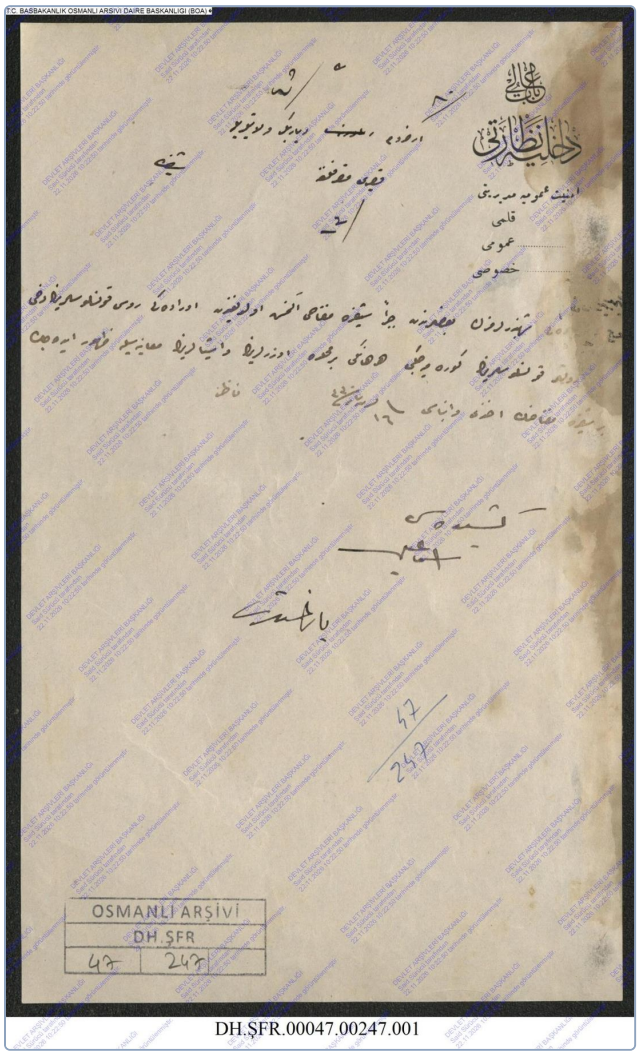
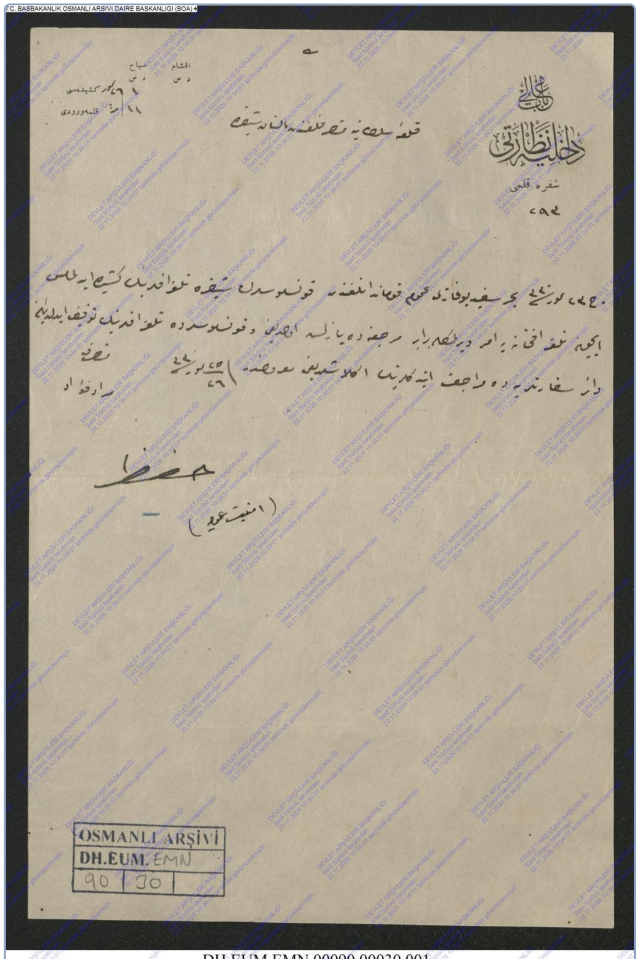


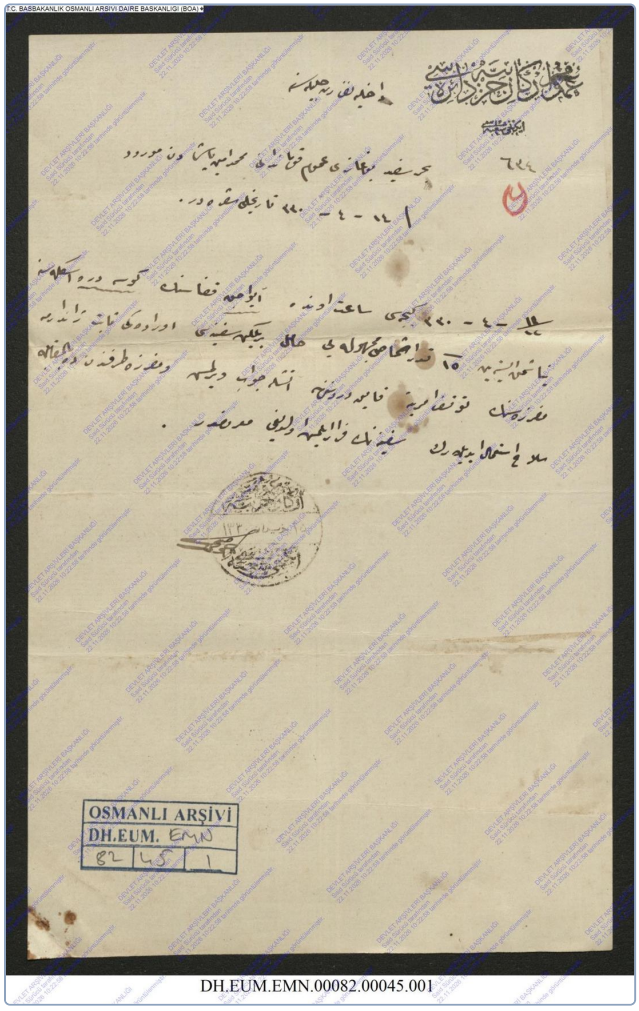
Plate 2 · BOA, DH.ŞFR. 47/247 (Nov 1914 · Signed by Talat Pasha)

Talat Pasha's signed counter-espionage order instructing Caucasus Front provinces to search Russian consuls and seize their cipher keys.



DH.EUM.EMN.00090.00030.001

Plate 3 · BOA, DH.EUM.EMN. 90/30 (1914 · Dardanelles)
Dardanelles Fortified Zone Command blackout prohibiting and confiscating foreign consular encrypted telegrams.



DH.EUM.EMN.00082.00045.001

Plate 4 · BOA, DH.EUM.EMN. 82/45, p. 1 (1914 · General Staff 2nd Branch)
General Staff 2nd Branch (Military Intelligence) transmission sheet for Dardanelles encrypted intelligence.

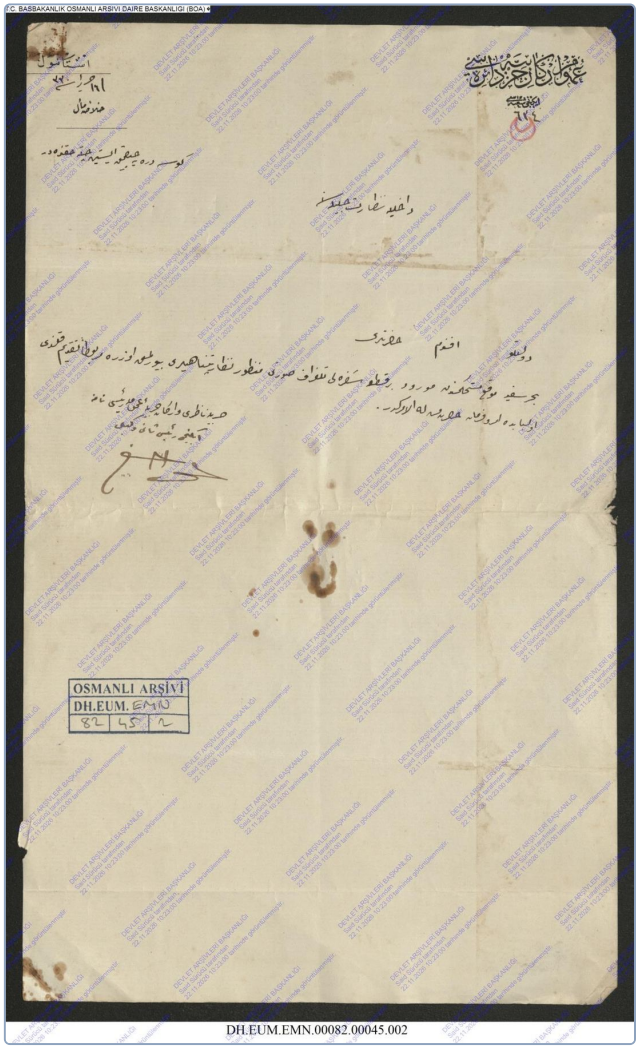


Plate 5 · BOA, DH.EUM.EMN. 82/45, p. 2 (1914 · War Ministry → Interior)
Forwarding of the Dardanelles Fortified Zone Commander's cipher telegram from the War Ministry to the Interior Ministry.

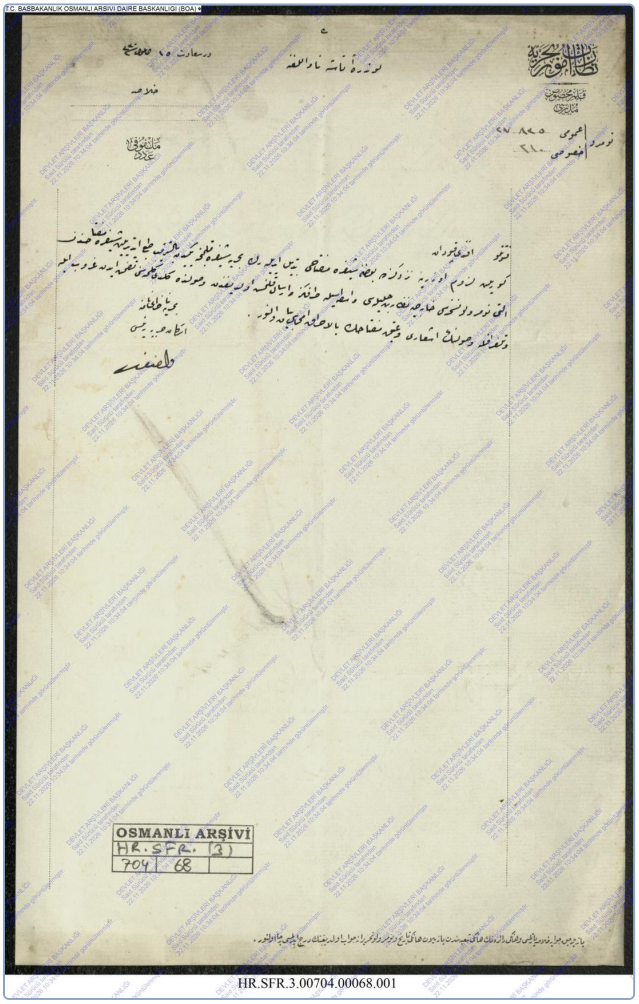


Plate 6 · BOA, HR.SFR.3… 704/68 (28 Sept 1914 · Ottoman Navy)
Ottoman Naval Chief of Staff dispatching Naval Cipher Key No. 6 to the London Naval Attaché with mandatory key-burning order.

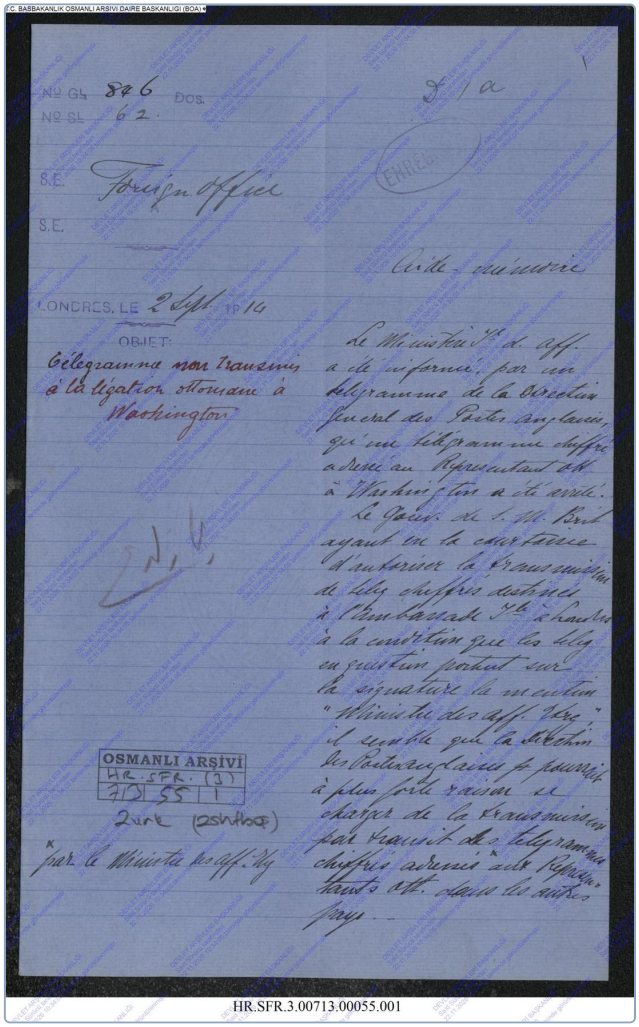


Plate 7 · BOA, HR.SFR.3… 713/55 (2 Sept 1914 · Foreign Office)
Aide-mémoire protesting British General Post Office detention of an encrypted Ottoman telegram addressed to Washington.

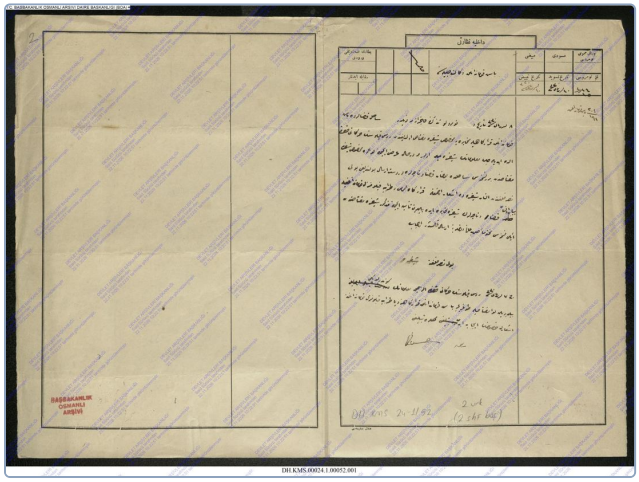


Plate 8 · BOA, DH.KMS. 24/52 (Nov 1914 · Black Sea Fleet Watch)
Distribution of dedicated coast-watch cipher keys along the Black Sea (Trabzon, Kastamonu, Bolu) to track the Russian Fleet.

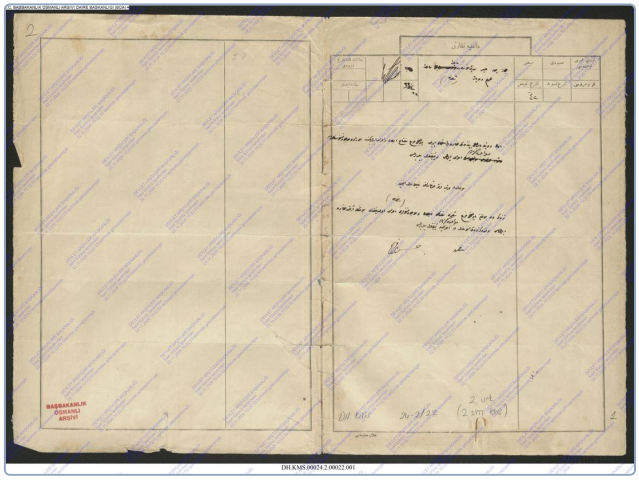


Plate 9 · BOA, DH.KMS. 24/22 (May 1915 · Key-Burning Certificate)
Wartime security record confirming the ordered burning of the 'third-type' provincial cipher key.

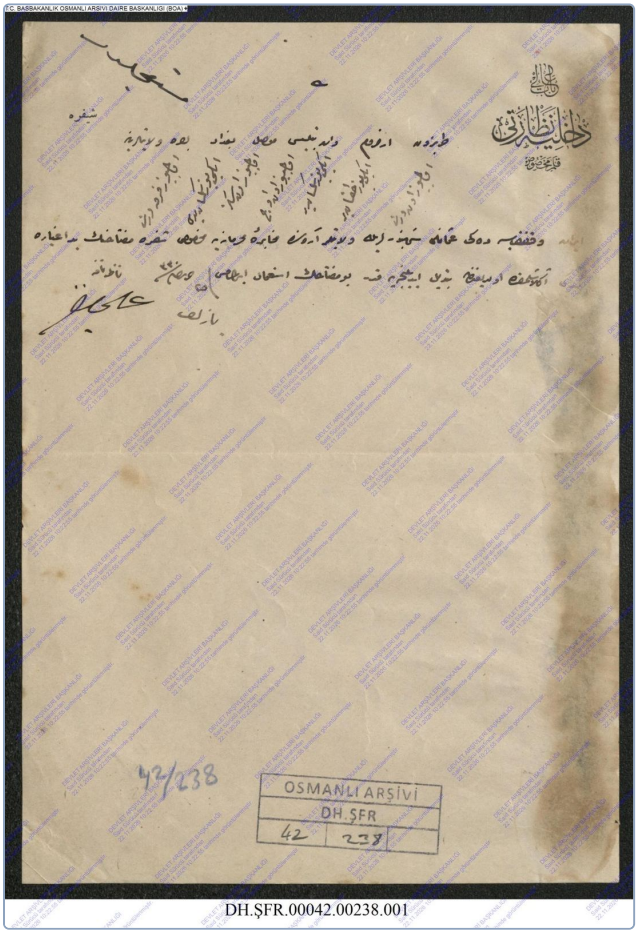


Plate 10 · BOA, DH.ŞFR. 42/238 (1914 · Iran & Caucasus Key Revocation)
Emergency revocation order across Trabzon, Erzurum, Van, Bitlis, Mosul, and Baghdad after the Iran/Caucasus consular key fell into foreign hands.

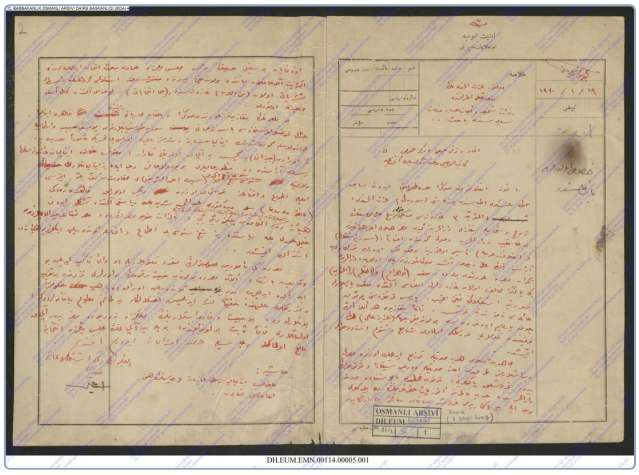


Plate 11 · BOA, DH.EUM.EMN. 114/5 (1914 · Emniyet-i Umûmiye Intelligence)
Red-ink Emniyet-i Umûmiye Intelligence Directorate counter-espionage dossier covering Cairo, Italian espionage, and Sheikh Senussi.