

CLAIMS: THE LABAREE CASE

American memorandum done at Tehran December 20, 1904; Persian note signed at Tehran January 3, 1905

1905 For. Rel. 723 ¹

AMERICAN MEMORANDUM

[TRANSLATION]

In the matter of the murder of Benjamin W. Labaree, an American citizen. The Persian Government having agreed to the demands of the American Government requiring—

1. The imprisonment for life of Mir Ghaffar, the principal murderer.
2. The arrest and punishment according to the measure of their guilt of his accomplices in the murder.
3. The payment in cash for the benefit of the widow and orphans of the deceased of an indemnity in the sum of \$50,000 gold.

And the President of the United States desiring to set a salutary example to prevent similar crimes rather than to exact harsh and inconvenient terms of the Persian Government, and considering the unbroken friendship that has subsisted between the two governments in the past has instructed Richmond Pearson, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States, to accept the sum of \$30,000 instead of the sum of \$50,000, the full amount of the indemnity conceded by the Persian Government on the following express conditions, to wit:

1. If Mir Ghaffar shall be permitted to escape from prison by the negligence or connivance of Persian officials.
2. Or if the leading accomplices, notoriously identified as participants in the crime and living within the jurisdiction of Persia, shall not have been captured and punished according to the measure of their guilt before March 9, 1906.
3. Or if the amount of the indemnity or any part thereof shall be levied by special tax, or by other device or pretext exacted it from the Christian population residing in Urumia or elsewhere in Persia, then and in any such event,

¹For background, see 1904 For. Rel. 657–672, 835 and Moore, *A Digest of International Law*, vol. VI, p. 806.