

AFRICA

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Colonial Office

1914

48-49

previous Paper.

Position of Great Britain
in E. African Prots.

Memo.

Mr. Lloyd
Mr. G. Diddle
Mr. J. Anderson

Mr. Butler wishes this memorandum
to be sent to "privately" to the boys.
for use in connection with
possible questions (by Mr. Prooth)
on the "our pos." in S.A. when
the Loans Bill is read a third
time.

Mr. Jernigan's memo. on the
legal pos. has been sent on
separately.

Mr. Butler will be glad of any

Subsequent Paper.

Items wh. you may want
to make.

Acct 20/1/14

A useful copy. I have no
more to offer.

to 20/1/14

20/1/14

P.M. 21.4.14

H. 21.4.14

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Historical Summary of position of Great Britain in the East African Protectorates.

1. East Africa and Uganda Protectorates.

In 1872 the British India Steam Navigation Company whose Chairman was Mr. (afterwards Sir) William MacKinnon had established regular communication between India, Zanzibar and Europe; and in 1877 the Sultan of Zanzibar offered ^{Mr. MacKinnon} him a concession of the whole of the Zanzibar Coast line, but the then Government did not favour the proposal.

The activity of Germany in East Africa made it necessary for the Government to show more interest in East Africa and in 1886 an agreement was made between England and Germany confirming the sovereignty of the Sultan of Zanzibar over the islands of Zanzibar, Pemba, Lamu, Mafia and other smaller islands and on the mainland over a strip of coast 10 miles deep from Tungi Bay to Kipini: certain coast stations north of Kipini were recognised as belonging to the Sultan viz Kismayu, Brava, Mourka, Magadoa and Waraheik. As between England and Germany, spheres of influence were allotted. England agreeing not to acquire territory or accept protectorates or interfere with the extension of German influence south of a line from the mouth of the Umba River to the point where 1° South Latitude intersects the eastern side of Lake Victoria, and Germany making a similar engagement as to the territory north of this line. The Rovuna River and the Tana River marked the respective limits of these spheres to

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the extreme south and north. Further, the agreement between France and England of 1862 by which both agreed to respect the independence of Zanzibar was adhered to by Germany.

In 1887 the Sultan leased the customs of the East African ports between the Umba River and Kipini to the British East African Association.

In 1888 this Association was incorporated by royal charter as the Imperial British East Africa Company. The charter authorised the Company to hold and retain their various grants and concessions, to exercise the powers necessary for government, for the preservation of public order and for the protection of their territories, and further to make fresh treaties and acquisitions subject to the approval of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

In July, 1890 a new agreement was made between England and Germany. The boundary between the British and German spheres of influence was more clearly defined (including the boundary through Lake Victoria and with the Congo Free State on the west). Germany gave up Witu (which is to the north of Kipini) and withdrew definitely to the south of the Umba River line, recognising a British protectorate over the Zanzibar mainland dominions between the Umba and the Juba River. (It should be stated that in June 1890 the Sultan had accepted the Protectorate of Great Britain; and in August 1890 the Angle-French agreement of 1862 was modified, France agreeing to recognise a British protectorate over Zanzibar and Pemba in exchange for recognition

recognition by Great Britain of a French protectorate over Madagascar.

In 1891 an agreement was made between Great Britain and Italy delimiting the boundary between their spheres in East Africa, viz. ^{the} Chalweg of the River Ruba up to the 6th degree of North Latitude.

The danger that the Hinterland - in particular Uganda - would be seized by Germany much exercised the Company. In May 1890 Mr. Jackson (now Sir F. Jackson, Governor of Uganda) took an expedition up to Uganda and later in the year Captain Lugard (now Sir F. Lugard, Governor General of Nigeria) camped at Mengo, the native capital. Uganda kingdom had been the scene of much disturbance - the Baganda King Mwanga, the Roman Catholic and Protestant Missions being all in their way responsible for the trouble. Captain Lugard concluded a treaty with Mwanga whereby the latter recognised the authority of the Company. He then marched on through Budda and annexed Ankole as far as Lake Albert Edward.

The Company began to tire of the strain on its resources involved in trying to maintain their establishment in Uganda, as while working in competition with the Germans they were not, like their German rivals given financial support by the Home Government. Consequently, they announced in 1891 that they intended to withdraw, at any rate temporarily, from Uganda. The Church Missionary Society raised £16,000 for the Company and induced them to stay on till the end of 1892, and then His Majesty's Government sent a special Commission of enquiry to Uganda under Sir Gerald Portal, Consul General at Zanzibar.

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He concluded, subject to His Majesty's Government's approval, a new treaty with Mwanga whereby, if the Company withdrew, Uganda should enjoy British protection. On 1st November 1893 he sent in his report recommending that Uganda should not be abandoned, that the Imperial British East Africa Company should cease to exist as a political or administrative body either in the Coast Concession granted by the Sultan or in the British sphere extending from the Coast to the Congo Free State; that Commissioners should be appointed to control this sphere of influence and that a railway should be constructed into the interior.

Negotiations between the Foreign Office and the Company dragged on. In the meantime a British protectorate was established over "Uganda" being proclaimed locally in the middle of 1894. (this was the Kingdom of Uganda only, but by subsequent treaties and agreements Bunyoro, Busoga and the other districts have been brought under British protection.)

In March 1895 the Company agreed to surrender their charter and their concession from the Sultan together with all their property and rights in East Africa (with the exception of certain cash, debts and loans) for £250,000; of which Zanzibar was to find £200,000 in return for the surrender of the concession and the Company's property and £50,000 was provided by the Imperial Parliament as compensation for the loss of the charter. The Foreign Office thus assumed control of all this territory, handing over to the

Colonial

Colonial Office on the 1st of April 1906.

The subsequent history is not relevant to the point at issue, but one may sum up the position now as follows:-

Zanzibar and Pemba are still governed by the Sultan under a British protectorate. A British protectorate has been proclaimed over Uganda (in the wide sense of the term) and "all the territories in East Africa under the Protectorate of Her Majesty, except the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba and the Uganda Protectorate, are for the purposes of administration included in one Protectorate, under the name of the East Africa Protectorate".

2. Nyasaland.

In November 1853 David Livingstone left Linyanti on the first of his journeys of exploration in the ^{Zambesi} Zambesi region. One of the most important results of his explorations was to open up a new field for missionary enterprise. At first the history of "British Central Africa" is the history of the establishment

establishment of the Universities Mission (Lilonga Island in Lake Nyasa 1865), the Livingstonia Mission of the Free Church of Scotland (Bandawe on West of Lake Nyasa 1876) and the Church of Scotland Mission (Blantyre 1876).

In 1878 the African Lakes Company was formed partly for commercial and partly for philanthropic objects. Slowly the Company and the missions began to gain ground in the face of considerable difficulties occasioned both by the opposition of the "Arab" slave traders and by the obstruction of the Portuguese in Mozambique.

In 1887 the Portuguese attempted to close the Zambezi which had hitherto been open to all vessels. Other actions of the Portuguese aroused resentment, e.g. the detention of some ammunition urgently needed by the British settlers up-country and a preposterous claim to the whole continent between Angola and Mozambique. While diplomatic correspondence was being carried on at home, Serpa Pinto marched with well-armed "peaceful and scientific" expedition from Portuguese East Africa into the Shire River district. Sir Harry Johnston had proceeded northwards and was making treaties with various Chiefs whereby they accepted British protection; but as an immediate counter to Serpa Pinto, Buchanan, the Acting British Consul at Blantyre, declared a British protectorate over the Makololo country and the Shire Hills beginning at the Roe River. His Majesty's Government then informed the Portuguese Government that they would regard as an invasion

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invasion of the rights of the British Crown any attempt by the Portuguese to exercise dominion over the British settlements in the Shire region or on Lake Nyasa. At one period Lord Salisbury threatened to recall the British Minister from Lisbon, but in June 1891 the Anglo-Portuguese agreement was drawn up which secured free navigation of the Zambezi, the Shire and their affluents for ships of all nations and which defined north and south of the Zambezi the British and Portuguese spheres. By the agreements with Germany of July 1890 the limits of the British sphere in British Central Africa vis-à-vis Germany, including the northern limits of Nyasaland had been fixed and in May 1894 the frontier between the Congo Free State and British Central Africa was settled.

The position of Great Britain in what is now known as Nyasaland was first clearly defined in May 1891 when Nyasaland was declared to be under the protection of Great Britain, the British South Africa Company having had its charter of 1889 extended in 1891 to cover the territory under British influence north of the Zambezi except Nyasaland.

The subjugation of the slave raiders occupied Sir H. Johnston and Sir A. Sharpe 5 or 6 years, but they did their work thoroughly and since peace was restored Nyasaland has been fortunate in having no history.

In March 1904 the administration of Nyasaland was transferred from the Foreign Office to the Colonial Office and in October 1907 the name "Nyasaland Protectorate"

Protectorate" was formally revised by Order-in-council in lieu of "British Central Africa Protectorate", the name given in February 1893.

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This memorandum is necessarily 'sketchy', partly because of the short time available for its preparation & partly because I understand that only the main facts are required.

ALP

28/4/14