

EAST - 107
15432

15432
REC
MAR 21 197

197

for
Bourning 136

Attack on Serenli

1916

29 Feb.

Confirms tel. comes & sends reports by
by Mrs. [unclear] & Mrs. Payne with
memo. none regarding details available
and action taken by inst. to date.

of previous paper
500
15203

Copy 281
Copy to [unclear] Secret } B April 16 15966
Copy 20. 14 April 16 } 15966
Copy 100
Copy to [unclear] 14 April 16
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See [unclear] 70. 15966

This is copy of the 15403

Next subsequent Paper.

70
15966

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE
No. 136.

15-32

GOVERNMENT OF GREAT BRITAIN
NAIROBI.
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

Handwritten signature/initials

February 29th, 1916.

Sir,

Gov
13328

With reference to my despatch No. 116 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of reports by the Acting Provincial Commissioner, Jubaland, and Lieutenant H. Rayne on the subject of the attack made by Sulthan Somali of Gerendi, together with copies of two further memoranda summarizing the details available and the action taken by the Government up to the present date.

to Ag. P.C.,
Isimayu
15-2-16
Do.
15-2-16
to Lt. Rayne
14-2-16
Do.
15-2-16
Memoranda
2

2. I take this opportunity of confirming the following telegrams which I have despatched to you on the matter:-

Gov
1446

Telegram No. 27 of the 7th February.

I have received two telegrams slightly mutilated

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S. W.

mutilated from Provincial Commissioner,
 Dismayo, reporting that according to information
 received from Governor of Italian Somaliland
 1,000 Ogaden Somalis made night attack on
 Serenli. Elliot, District Commissioner, and
 65 rank and file reported killed, Serenli
 burnt down, all ammunition, Lewis gun and safe
 taken away. Action very rapid and made with
 extreme vigilance. Will continue to further
 details as soon as possible. Bowring.

"Telegram of the 13th February."

By telegram February 7th. After
 consultation with General Officer Commanding,
 Graham, Hope, Barrett and Executive Council
 following arrangements have been made. Governor
 concurs. (a) Immediate evacuation of Sajeir,
 (b) 100 men of the Police Service Battalion
 to proceed to Marti west of Lorian, (c) 40
 armed constabulary from Sajeir to Moyali
 which will not be evacuated. General Officer
 Commanding is prepared to hold in readiness
 300 Indian troops for garrison at Dismayo if
 required. Re-occupation of Serenli will require
 larger forces than are available at present.
 No further details available and the extent
 of the trouble is not known as yet. Bowring.

"Telegram No. 41 of the 17th February."

Your

Your telegram February 16th. Answer to all questions is in affirmative. Report received yesterday that person named has communicated through Government of Italian Somaliland that he is fully aware of the great crime he has committed but was compelled by necessity and by Elliot's partiality adverse to laws of white men. He is further reported to have asked for permission to send a letter to the King in order to explain and justify his déportment. Further reports received yesterday state Aulihan endeavouring to persuade Marehan and Mohamed Zubeir to join and that Abyssinian Aulihan will make attack on Marehan if they will not join. Power is convinced Abyssinian Aulihan responsible for present position. Further that belated letter arrived Kismayu on February 18th from Elliot stating Abyssinian Aulihan with assistance from Abyssinian troops threaten to make attack on Marehan and that if this occurs Marehan will join Abdurrahman Mursaai. This may involve Mohamed Zubeir on Deshek Wama. Power reports despatch of troops to Jubaland necessary, and endeavouring to arrange this with military authorities. Isaac reports from Lamu that Aulihan and Mohamed Zubeir

near

near Lorian are threatening Abd Wak and Abdullah who are not strong enough to resist and may join in which case attack on Coast Towns is to be feared. Distances and difficulties of communications render it extremely difficult to form any reliable appreciation of the true position. Bowring".

2413

"Telegram No.44 of the 19th February.

Following telegram received to-day from Kismayu, begins, - 17-2-18. Italian Resident, Giunbo, reports Gosha village Arrolli North of Jehia burnt down by Aulihan, also villages on Italian side. Italian station Bidi closed. Resident and askaris at Bidi have been transferred to Jelib, Italian troops sent to Italian stations on river, Italians state situation has become serious, am sending 50 troops from Yonte to Alexandra after consultation with Officer Commanding Troops, Jubaland, troops Kismayu urgently required: - ends. General Officer Commanding has arranged to send Arab Rifles consisting of 5 British Officers, 1 Native Officer and 202 rank and file, in command of Mure, Asaistant District Commissioner, to Kismayu. Bowring".

9634

"Telegram No.50 of the 28th February.

My telegram February, 19th, 18. It is reported

reported that Marehan are holding general council to decide whether they shall join Aulihan and Power considers it quite likely that they will do so as men of Abdurrahman Mursaal have been sent to their country to travel through it as far as river Daua if Marehan permit them. Power also reported February 21st Mohamed Zubeir not to be trusted and feared attack on Kismayu unless troops were sent immediately. Mure with Arab Rifles left February 26th and should be there by now. Man-of-war left on same date for Kismayu. On February 22nd Provincial Commissioner, Tanaland, reported native rumour that Llewellyn, Assistant District Commissioner, Wajheir, was being held by Somali between Wajheir and Korokoro. Up to-date there is no confirmation of this report and no news from Wajheir so it may be presumed that nothing of great importance has taken place in that district. Further evidence has been received that the Abyssinians have given assistance to the Aulihan and Elliot was able to obtain possession of a letter signed by an Abyssinian chief promising help to them. Believe that presence of troops and man-of-war at Kismayu will have good effect on tribes

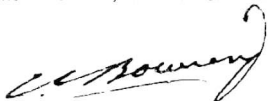
in

In Southern Jubaland. No further troops
available. Bowring*.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

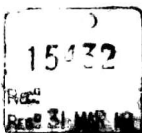
Your humble, obedient servant,



GOVERNOR

is Deputy

4

INCLOSURE *Pu.1*

In Despatch No. 136 of February 1916

204

PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

KISMAYU,

4th February, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that at 10 p.m. on the 3rd February Mr. Paternostro, Resident of Giuba, Italian Somaliland, came in from Giuba with a telegram from his Acting Governor which stated that a wire had been received from the Resident at Bardera that Sereleh had been attacked at 2 a.m. on the 3rd February by about one thousand Ogaden Aulihan Somalis and that the Abh askaris at Sereleh who were scattered about the town were, with the exception of a few, killed and that as the District Commissioner had not been seen since he had probably met the same fate message ends.

2. On the morning of the 3rd February a second telegram was received from the Acting Governor of Italian Somaliland in code to Mr. Paternostro informing him that the District Commissioner had been killed at Sereleh with five askaris and that the Ogaden who were under the orders of Abdi Rahman Mursal, Chief of the Aulihan, had taken away all ammunition, the maxim and the safe and had made prisoners of these askaris who understood the maxim. The Ogaden had then left

THE HON'BLE

THE CHIEF SECRETARY,

HARARI

after having burnt down the town - message ends.

3. I immediately wired to the Staff Officer at Gebwen to send a mounted camel sowar to the Officer Commanding Troops, Southern Jubaland, and to tell him to bring in all recovered stock in his possession taken from the Wajheir section of Aulihan from the Samburu and return at once to Yonti.

4. I also warned the Staff Officer, Gebwen, and Captain Devereux at Yonti to take military precautions and instructed the Staff Officer to send Mrs. Kayne and children into Kismayu.

I have informed the Swedish mission people that the mission ladies at Yonti and Wafi should be sent to Kismayu.

5. I have taken these precautions as the Northern Aulihan might try and join the section from Wajheir who are at present in touch with Mr. Kayne. This however I consider extremely unlikely.

6. The action of the Ogaden Aulihan was entirely unprovoked and consequently unforeseen. Mr. Elliot had full instructions to proceed very carefully in his dealings with the Marehan and Aulihan and on no account to do any act that would cause the tribes to take up arms against the Government.

Mr. Elliot wrote me quite recently that he was pleased at the way things were progressing at Sereali and that he had just returned from a successful patrol amongst the Marehan who had received him well and was about to start his patrol through the Aulihan country.

7. I had warned Mr. Elliot against Abdul Rahman Nurud whom I knew to be a clever and dangerous man and Mr. Elliot informed me that he was being closely watched.

8. During my visit to Sereuli I interviewed Abdul Rahman Mursal and his only complaint was that he was not allowed to attack the Marehan. A few weeks ago he again applied for permission to Mr. Elliot to take up arms against the Marehan or to be allowed to take his section to Northern Somaliland through Italian territory. Mr. Elliot informed him that he could not consent to the Marehan being attacked and that he must apply to the Italian Authorities to take his section through the Italian Protectorate.

9. I have just received a wire from the Resident at Giimbe, who returned there yesterday, informing me that 65 askaris many wounded escaped from Sereuli and are at present receiving assistance in Bardera. These well enough to travel will shortly come in to Kismayu by the Italian side.

10. I have sent out instructions that all Chiefs of the Ogaden Mohamed Zubeir should come to see me in Kismayu at once as it is very possible that Abdul Rahman Mursal may try to get them to join him. This naturally would make the situation serious but I consider it unlikely.

11. I have written to the Resident of Giimbe requesting him if possible to have Mr. Elliot's remains taken across and buried at Bardera.

12. I should like to point out that the Acting Governor of Italian Somaliland has taken the keenest interest in this unfortunate affair.

He was in constant communication with the Resident, Bardera, and transmitted immediately all news to Giimbe.

Also the trouble taken, and sympathy shown, by the
Resident

Resident of Gumbo and the action of the Resident of Bardera in his attention to all wounded askaris.

13. It is with extreme regret that I have to report the death of an Officer of whom I held the highest opinion and esteem, both officially and personally and by his death the East Africa Protectorate has lost a most able and efficient official.

February 5th.

I have just received a wire from the Staff Officer, Cobwen, that Messrs. Payne and Martin and troops have returned to Yondi with recovered stock.

I have, etc.

Sd/- E. Power.

Ag. PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER.

PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,

ALMAYU,

12th February, 1916.

CONFIDENTIAL.

SITUATION IN JUDALAND.

Sir,

As none of the survivors have yet returned from Berenli I am unable at present to give you a detailed account of the attack on Berenli and the murder of Mr. Elliott.

1. The position of affairs is as follows:-

The Aulihan may offer the Marchan many head of cattle to join them but the Marchan would refuse unless Sheikh Ali Hairebi persuaded them to do so.

2. If these two sections become united against the Government I am afraid the Mohamed Zubeir's young men would not be held back and a general up rising would take place.

3. On the other hand if the Marchan refuse to join with the Aulihan - and there is no love lost between the two tribes- The Mohamed Zubeir would have nothing to do with the Aulihan .

4. The Herzi are safe. They have lost over two hundred of their people at Berenli and are consequently very bitter against the Aulihan.

5.

The Hon'ble
The Chief Secretary,
Mairubi.

B. I honestly confess I do not understand the rising at Sereleli. Abdurrahman Mursal is an extremely intelligent and very cautious man and in my opinion would not have committed the deed unless he had some backing up from somewhere.

This might come from Sheikh Ali Nairobi who is on the Italian side or from German sources as I now learn Abdurrahman Mursal has a son with the German troops in German East Africa.

Sheikh Ali Nairobi is ^a most dangerous man. He is a Sheriff and has a large following both on Italian side and in Jubaland.

If troops can be spared I suggest that 200 men under a more or less senior officer should be sent at once to Jubaland.

This would steady the Somalis and in my opinion would stop the other tribes joining the Amalin. These troops of course could not be used to punish the Amalin for which purpose at least 1000 men would be required. I again repeat I think there is a lot more in the affair than meets the eye and I should advise that all Somalis - even at Nairobi - should be carefully watched.

I also require a Civil Officer with Somali experience to live in the unshamed Zubair country. Mr. Mure of course would be the man if you can spare him. An Asst. District Commissioner without experience of Somalis would be worse than useless at the present time.

I have, etc.,

ed. B. FORD,
Ag. Provincial Commr.

INCLOSURE *2/3*

In Despatch No. 136 of Feb'y 29th 1916

YONTE, 14-2-1916.

III K.A.R.

210

The Adjutant
III K.A.R.
Nairobi.

From
O.C.H.Coy.,
III K.A.R.
Yente.

Subject : - Aulihan raid and attack on Serenli.

Further to my reports of 12th instant I beg leave to forward the following information.

So far as I can gather I do not believe that the attack on Serenli or the murder of Mr. Elliott was premeditated for any considerable time before it occurred. Apparently some Semalis in Abyssinia have been threatening to raid the Marehan and it is possible that both Mr. Elliott and Haji Abdulrahman were aware of this. Some short time before Mr. Elliott's murder (I am not clear as to how long, but am under the impression that it was only a few days before), the Aulihan in Mr. Elliott's district raided the Marehan. The Provincial Commissioner Kimmayu, states that his information on this raid is that 60 to 100 Aulihan, Rer Affie, Rer Afghab looted 700 camels and killed 9 men of Marehan (Rer Hassan). The P.C. thinks that Elliott got back this stock but is not clear.

I think we will find later on that the whole of the trouble which led up to the leaving of Serenli on the night of the 2/3 instant was brought to a head by the raid mentioned above.

My information right up to date as regards the Mahomed Zubeir is most satisfactory. Their Sultan is ill

but

but propose paying a visit to the P.C. in Kismayu to assure him of the Mahomed Zubeir's loyalty. He will be accompanied by the principal chiefs of his tribe. The only man of the Mahomed Zubeir elders who was likely to have been in a position to give trouble is Maalim Abdal a late police affendi. This man has considerable influence with the younger men of his tribe, and had some paltry grievance against the Government. I went out of my way when I was on patrol to reconcile this man. He followed me the whole time and worked well, indeed I may say that he put his heart into the business and a great deal of what success I had was due to him. I think it a great pity that these young rising men should not be more closely watched and pains taken to enlist their services on the side of the Government. Personally I think he is now quite reconciled and I am taking the great liberty of strongly recommending to the Provincial Commissioner of this Province, that Maalim should be found some small work, or given some small trust by the Government and kept well in touch with. No matter what his past record he is now a man to be reckoned with, and is trusted and looked up to by the fighting men of the whole of his tribe. On the 12th instant I visited Gobwen and Kismayu returning on the same day to my station here at Youte. During this visit I interviewed Mr. Paternostro, Resident Giumbo, Italian Somaliland. He informed that the remnants of the Serenli garrison had left Bardera en route Giumbo and that the Affendi had died of wounds. He could give no information as to the actual damage done to buildings and walls at Serenli but stated that all escaped askaris had reached Bardera without arms.

On

On arrival of these messages I will hold a court of inquiry into the whole matter and forward you the result. The Italians state that the main body of the Aulihan are still four hours below Serenli on the River. No information as to the movements of the Aulihan had reached us on our side whatever.

My spies returned last night 13-2-16 from the Deshek and reported all quiet. They reported rain in Dirrib in which district two sections of the Tur Adi are now camped. They stated further that they had heard the near Sengahit section of the Tur Adi intend bringing in their fine (mentioned in my report to P.C. dated 11-2-16 and copy to you) also remainder of looted stock.

As you will doubtless have noticed I have refrained from using the Italian wireless in reporting any of the late occurrences here. I understand that the Provincial Commissioner, Kismayu, reported the Serenli affair and I am of the opinion that you will have received a copy of his wire. My reason for not wiring you is that wires may be picked up by the Germans and much made of this unfortunate and at present small Serenli affair.

During my recent patrol I found evidence implicating Herti traders indirectly, with the Aulihan raid on Samburu. Also evidence against certain Herti traders for trading in rifles and ammunition. I can lay my hand on all these men, but the Provincial Commissioner, Kismayu, has asked me to keep these matters pending in the meantime. As you will readily understand in cases of this sort speed is everything and now that the agent has not immediately been followed up I expect the matter will fizzle out. However if you can convey to the officer i/c Moyale that

all Kerti and Isaac caravans operating in his vicinity are worth watching, particularly on their return journeys southwards. I am sure there will be some interesting developments. As three cows can be bought at the Merian for 100 rds. of Gras ammunition you will readily understand the great temptation to traders to do a little illegitimate trading. As regards rifles in Mahomed Zubeir country I cannot give any estimate as to numbers, but Maalin~~W~~ Abdi frankly admits that they - the Mahomed Zubeir - have more rifles and more ammunition than any other tribe from Serenli southwards. On my recent patrol all young Mahomed Zubeir kept their rifles out of my sight, but did not worry to conceal them from despatch riders. These men reported plenty of rifles.

The bulk of the Mahomed Zubeir tribe are at present (so far as concerns my district) on the Wama at Afmadu and in Dirrib. In Dirrib there is a fair supply of water around Lalafa and near Irees. Heavy showers fallen during the past fortnight in Dirrib.

ed/ H. RAYNE.

O.C. Troops.

Southern Jubaland.

YONTE, 15th February, 1916.

10-A.M.

214

The Adjutant 3rd K.A.R.

Nairobi

From C.C. Troops,

Southern Jubaland.

Subject :- Auilihan raid on Serenli and situation in Jubaland to-day.

(1) Further to my report of yesterday's date I forward herewith the following information.

(2) Owing to reliable information which has reached me during the night and this morning I am now quite satisfied that the Mahomed Zubeir will remain quiet if possible.

(3) Sultan Osman Wali Muggan (Mahomed Zubeir, reported here at Yonte this morning. He had nothing to report excepting that his young men are well in hand. He will hold a meeting of Mahomed Zubeir chiefs on the sama on Friday 18th instant. I shall endeavour to attend this meeting if all remains quiet. He will return from here to-day although I should like him to visit the Provincial Commissioner, Kismayu.

(4) Many rumours have reached me of an^d concerning Haji Abdulrahman Mursal and his men, but nothing reliable. So far as I am concerned I am totally in the dark as to his intentions and movements. See P.O.s (Kismayu) reports to Secretariat for further information.

(5) An Auilihan from Serenli was captured here this morning. Up to the present I have been unable to procure any information from him and as the mail closes 15 O'clock at Kismayu to-day I cannot forward any

information

information concerning him until next post.

(6) I respectfully forward you the following suggestions.

(a) If one or more companies are sent here to re-inforce, that H. Coy. be relieved at Yonta and make a forced march on Italian side to re-occupy Serenli. It would be necessary to use the Italian side as the company would not be strong enough to fight its way through on this side, but if bonded up at Serenli would be strong enough to give a good account of itself. If Serenli were re-occupied successfully and held the whole situation would be saved.

(b) That the whole matter be left just as it is, and the people here given an opportunity of showing their hand.

(7) It is unnecessary for me to state that if (a) be put into operation that Officers who come with re-inforcements should have previous experience of this country.

As this will be last opportunity I will have for some time of forwarding you a report, I would like to state that my idea of attending the Manomed Zubair meeting on Friday may seem foolhardy for an officer in my position. You can rely on me doing nothing foolish: the position is that I must get information and I am the only officer with any knowledge of the language. Nevertheless I will give up attending this meeting if in my opinion it is in the slightest risky.

sd/ H. RAYNE, Lieutenant,

O.C. Troops,

Southern Jordan,

PROCES FOR WARE ENDING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1974.

1. THE DETAILS.- On the 16th three letters were received from the Acting Provincial Commissioner, Kisumu, of which the following is a short summary:-

(a) - Dated February 5th. At 10 p.m. on February 3rd the Italian Resident at Giumbo rode in to Kisumu with a telegram from the Acting Governor of Italian Somaliland which stated that a report had been received from the Italian Resident at Bardera to the effect that Sereuli had been attacked at 2 a.m. on February 3rd by about 1000. Aulihan Somalis, and that the Askaris at Sereuli who were scattered about the town were, with some exceptions, killed, and that it was feared that Lieutenant Elliott had shared the same fate as he had not been seen since. 65 Askaris, many of whom were wounded, escaped to Bardera. On the morning of February 3rd a second telegram was received from the Acting Governor of Italian Somaliland addressed to the Italian Resident at Giumbo in confirmation of the first report, and stating that the Aulihan, who were in command of Abdirahman Mursael, had departed after having sacked the town.

(N.B.- There seems to be some uncertainty as to whether the attack took place on February 2nd or February 3rd. Two telegrams were sent to the Chief Secretary by the Acting Provincial Commissioner, Kisumu, on the matter. The first dated Giumbo February 4th was received here on the morning of February 7th and definitely stated that the attack was made on the 2nd, while the second telegram dated February 5th which was presumably despatched after the receipt of the confirmatory report from the Acting

Governor of Italian Somaliland was received here at 4.15 p.m. on February 5th.) On receipt of these telegrams the Acting Provincial Commissioner, Jubaland, wired to Lieutenant Payne to return at once to Yonto with the stock he had recovered from the Waheir section of the Anlikan who had recently raided the Samburu. He also warned the Staff Officer, Gebwen, and Captain Devereux at Yonto to take military precautions, and suggested that Mrs. Payne and the ladies of the Swedish Mission at Yonto and Hoft should be sent to Kimayu. Orders were sent at once to the chiefs of the Bahamed Zubair to come to Kimayu in order that they might be warned against listening to Abdulrehan Marzani and joining the Anlikan.

(b) Dated February 12th. In this Mr. Paver gave his opinion of the situation. He considered that (i) the Harshan would refuse to join the Anlikan, but that (ii) if they did so join, the Bahamed Zubair would also co-operate with them, otherwise, (iii) the Bahamed Zubair would refuse to have anything to do with the Anlikan (iv) the Horti at Kimayu were safe. He asked for 250 men to be sent at once to S. Jubaland and suggested that Mr. G. Nure, Assistant District Commissioner - now Officer Commanding Arab Rifles - should be detailed to proceed to the country inhabited by the Bahamed Zubair to watch and advise them.

(c) Dated February 12th. In this letter the Acting Provincial Commissioner states that he understands that Abdulrehan Marzani admits his crime and wishes to explain and justify his action to H.M. the King. On the 12th Mr. Paver telegraphed that the Anlikan were reported to be trying to persuade the Harshan and Bahamed Zubair to join them, that both tribes were attracted to

and that the Abyssinians Aulihar would attack the Marchan if they held aloof. He stated that he was convinced that the Abyssinians were responsible for the existing state of affairs.

N.B.- This may be regarded as modifying the views expressed by Mr. Power regarding the Marchan in his letter (b) above.

On the 16th another telegram dated February 18th was received in which Mr. Power states that he had just received a belated letter from Lieutenant Elliott who also appeared to think that the Aulihar were being encouraged by the Abyssinians. On the 16th a letter was received from Mr. Power confirming a telegram dated February 9th to the effect that Lieutenant Elliott's body had been recovered and buried with full military honours at Bardera. The telegram in question was never received at Kairebi. It is understood, though no official confirmation of the fact has been received, that Lieutenant Elliott was shot in his bed while asleep outside Sereali house.

On the 16th the Provincial Commissioner, Lamma, telegraphed for permission to enlist 50 Bajun as irregular police and 150 Galla as scouts. He asked for 500 rifles and 200 rounds of ammunition per rifle.

On the 19th a telegram dated February 17th was received from Mr. Power stating that the Gusha village of Arroli North of Jebia had been burnt down by the Aulihar and that some villages on the Italian side of the river had also been destroyed. The Italian station at Nidi has been closed and the troops transferred to Jelib.

2. DISPOSITION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. Deck and Mr. Welmsley Bourne are at

Archer's Post.

Lieutenant Payne has returned to Yonto.

Mr. Llewellyn and Mr. Turner are at Enjheir with an armed force of 60 men.

Otherwise no change from the disposition shown in last week's report.

3. DISPOSITION OF THE BANANI TRIBES.

The Herti are at Hismayu and Golwen.

The Mahomed Zubeir are for the west part on the coast road and near Afwadu.

The Her Bengat and Her Hawash section of the Tur Adi Aulihan are at Derrih Lalafia.

The Northern Aulihan are at Serenli and Salagli.

The Harshan are at Farnwen and to the North.

Sections of the Aulihan, Mahomed Zubeir are at or near the base Nyiro and between the Lorian and Bankufi.

The Abd wak are at Bankufi.

The Abdullah and her Mahomed are on the Tana River from Mwisa to Masabubu.

4. DECISIONS ARRIVED AT AND ACTION TAKEN.

(a) The General Officer Commanding has arranged to send Captain Burns with 200 Arab Rifles at once to Hismayu.

(b) Permission has been granted to the Provincial Commissioner, Lamu, to enlist the 200 men asked for, and endeavours are being made to supply him with 500 rifles and 100 rounds of ammunition per rifle.

(c) The Police Service Companies left for Herti on February 19th.

(d) The Secretary of State has been kept informed of developments.

5. GENERAL. - Reports from Officers best qualified to judge show that they are not yet in a position to gauge the significance of the attack on Seronli. Almost all agree that Abdulrehman Karsaal is a very shrewd and calculating man who would be unlikely to countenance such an act without being fairly sure of his ground. There are three main theories (i) that German agents have been at work. This theory is chiefly supported by the fact that he has a son serving with the German East Africa Forces (ii) that Turkish agents have been at work through Sheikh Ali Nairobi, who lives at Bardera (iii) that he has taken advantage of our preoccupation elsewhere to attempt to throw off British rule and make himself paramount in Jubaland.

Sheikh Ali Nairobi was formerly in the service of this Protectorate and was dismissed by Mr. Alunworth in 1902. He then went to Mecca where he stayed for 2 or 4 years subsequently returning to Africa since when he has generally resided near Bardera. He is a Sheriff and has a large following in Italian Somaliland and Jubaland. He is a great friend of Abdulrehman Karsaal and his tribe in Derud, Balbakhanta, Jama Saïd.

The Italian authorities at Bardera have been of the greatest assistance throughout and the grateful thanks of the Government have been conveyed to them.

Nairobi.

Sd/- T. S. Thomas.

February 21st, 1916.

CONFIDENTIAL.

précis for the week ending
 Saturday, February 26th.

1. The Details. (i) Information has been received that since the outbreak of war enemy agents have been active in Abyssinia and their intrigues have occasioned several petty incidents on the N.W. frontier. The Negus is inclined to friendship with those of the Mohammedan religion with whom he comes in contact and his visit to Somaliland in 1909 appears to have led him to believe that the Marehan and Ogaden Somali are practically unadministered, while the chief purveyors of Abyssinian rifles to the Somali would be particularly sensitive to bluff by Mohammedan enemy agents working under the Turkish Consul at Harrar.

(ii) This information is in some degree corroborated by (a) a telegram from the Provincial Commissioner, Lamu, dated February 22nd reporting that the Abdullah Somali state that last month four Abyssinians entered British territory and arranged for the revolt of the Aulihan, and (b) by a private letter from the late Lieutenant Elliot to Colonel Graham dated Sereuli, January 18th, in which he says, "All well at present,

but

but trouble is looming large among the Aulihan
on both sides of the river. The Abyssinians
have promised help to the Aulihan and I have
looted a letter signed and stamped by an
Abyssinian chief to that effect. This letter
was probably lost at the time of the attack on
Serenli.

(111) The Officer-in-Charge of the King's
African Rifles depot at Nairobi has received
two reports from Lieutenant Rayne. The main
points of the first of these reports, dated
Yonta February 14th, are

- (a) that he does not believe the attack on
Serenli to have been long premeditated,
- (b) that apparently a few days before

Lieutenant Elliot's murder the Aulihan, Rer
Afgab, raided the Marehan, Rer Hassan, looting
700 camels and killing 9 men. It is not clear
whether Lieutenant Elliot recovered this stock,
but it is thought that he did.

(c) that the whole of the trouble, culminating
in the attack on Serenli, was brought to a head
by this raid.

(d) that the Mohamed Zubeir are at present
loyal. The only man of this tribe who was
likely to do harm is one Maalin Abdi an ex-
-branded "extremist". This man has considerable
influence with the younger men of his tribe

but trouble is looming large among the Aulihan on both sides of the river. The Abyssinians have promised help to the Aulihan and I have looted a letter signed and stamped by an Abyssinian chief to that effect". This letter was probably lost at the time of the attack on Serenli. .

(iii) The Officer-in-Charge of the King's African Rifles depot at Nairobi has received two reports from Lieutenant Rayne. The main points of the first of these reports, dated Yonta February 14th, are

(a) that he does not believe the attack on Serenli to have been long premeditated,

(b) that apparently a few days before Lieutenant Elliot's murder the Aulihan, Rer Afgab, raided the Marehan, Rer Hassan, looting 700 camels and killing 9 men. It is not clear whether Lieutenant Elliot recovered this stock, but it is thought that he did.

(c) that the whole of the trouble, culminating in the attack on Serenli, was brought to a head by this raid.

(d) that the Mohamed Zubeir are at present loyal. The only man of this tribe who was likely to do harm is one Maalin Kofi an ex-offendi of Police. This man has considerable influence with the younger men of his tribe

and

and is stated to have had some petty grudge against the Government. Lieutenant Rayne has done all he can to reconcile this man and reports that he has worked with him exceedingly well.

(e) that the Mohamed Zubeir have more rifles and more ammunition than any tribe south of Serenli.

(iv) In the second of these two reports, dated Youte February 15th, he states that he has received reliable information that the Mohamed Zubeir will remain quiet if possible. The Sultan, Osman Geli Maghan, had arrived at Youte and intended to hold a meeting of the Mohamed Zubeir chiefs at the Deshek Wama on February 18th. In the meantime the young men were well in hand.

(v) On the 21st the Officer Commanding Troops, Southern Jubaland, reported that the Italian authorities affirmed that the culprits in the raid on the Goshu villages, vide last week's precis, were the Yur Adi Section of the Aulihan.

(vi) On the 21st the Provincial Commissioner, Lamu, reported in a letter dated February 15th that since the attack on Serenli, the position with regard to the Somali in Tanaland had become "extremely grave". The chiefs of the Abd Wak, Abdullah, and Rer Mahomed - all being

sections

sections of the Ogaden - were then in Lamu and professed their loyalty to the Government; Mr. Isaac was not however convinced that this attitude was shared by the members of their tribes, and stated that if pressure were brought to bear by the Jubaland Sections they would certainly join in the revolt. He asked for 400 troops or police to defend the Coast or, if these were not available, 200 for Lamu.

(vii) On the 22nd a telegram was received from the Provincial Commissioner, Lamu, to the effect that the Galla report Mr. Llewelling to be "held" by the Somali between Wajheir and Kerekero on the Tana River, and that Mr. Chamber and Mr. Pease had already left for Kerekero.

(viii) On the 23rd a telegram was received from the Acting Provincial Commissioner, Jubaland, dated February 19th stating that the Italian Resident had reported that the Marehan were holding a general council to decide whether they should join the Aulihan. Men of Abdulrehman Mursal had been sent to the Marehan requesting permission to travel through their country as far as the Dava River on the Abyssinian border.

(ix) On the 24th two other telegrams were received from Mr. Power dated February 21st asking for the urgent despatch of troops to

Kismayu,

Kismayu, otherwise Kismayu might be attacked as the Mohamed Zubeir were not to be trusted.

N.B. At the time he sent this telegram, Mr. Power was probably aware of the decision arrived at by the Mohamed Zubeir at the Council meeting to be held on the 15th, vide précis of Lieutenant Rayne's second report. It may be assumed that, as the tribe are not reported to be directly hostile, they have resolved to adopt a waiting attitude and to determine their future action by the trend of events.

(x) It is stated that Sheikh Ali Nairobi has crossed into British territory. If this is so, he has probably come to attend the Marsahan Council, and his presence there would not be advantageous to the Government.

2. Disposition of Officers.

No change from that reported last week, as far as is known, except as regards Mr. Llewellyn, Mr. Chamber, and Mr. Pease.

3. Disposition of the Somali Tribes.

The Magharbul (Ogaden) and some Abdullah are reported to have moved to Diskaya, which is understood to be a grazing district often frequented by them.

The main body of the Aulihaa are still encamped four hours below Serenli on the

Juba River.

Two Sections of the Tur Adl Aulihan are in Dirrib, near the Deshek Wama

The Mohamed Zubeir are on the Deshek Wama at Afmadu and in Dirrib

Decisions arrived at and action taken.

It was stated in last week's précis that Captain Ware with the Arab Rifles was under orders for Kismayu. On receipt of the two telegrams from Mr. Power dated February 21st the military authorities were asked if the despatch of these troops could ~~not~~ be expedited. On the 26th the force left Mombasa by the S.S. "Wiseman", comprising 2 British Officers, 1 Indian Officer, 237 rank and file, 1 Indian Compounder and 16 followers.

On the same day, through the kind co-operation of the naval authorities, a man-of-war left for Kismayu.

The naval authorities have also been asked whether the Mombasa wireless station can be utilized for communicating with Kismayu, as at present telegrams take three or four days in transmission.

At a meeting of the Executive Council on the 26th, the letter from the Provincial Commissioner, Lamu, dated February 15th (vide paragraph 1 (vi) above) was discussed and it was resolved

resolved that he should be informed that it was impossible to send him the troops he asked for in view of the inability of the military authorities to supply them at the present time. 100 rifles and 50,000 rounds of ammunition have been sent to the Provincial Commissioner, Lamu, from Nairobi, and the Provincial Commissioner, Mombasa, has been requested to send him 30 more rifles.

The Acting Provincial Commissioner, Kismayu, has been requested to employ Maalim Abdi in Government Service if possible (vide paragraph 1 (iii) above).

General. No news has been received from Wajheir and it is hoped that the position there is satisfactory. The orders regarding the evacuation have probably not yet reached the station, but on the other hand sufficient time has now elapsed to enable the news of any rising in the district to arrive here.

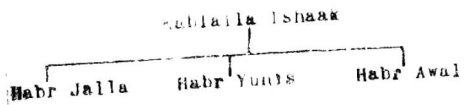
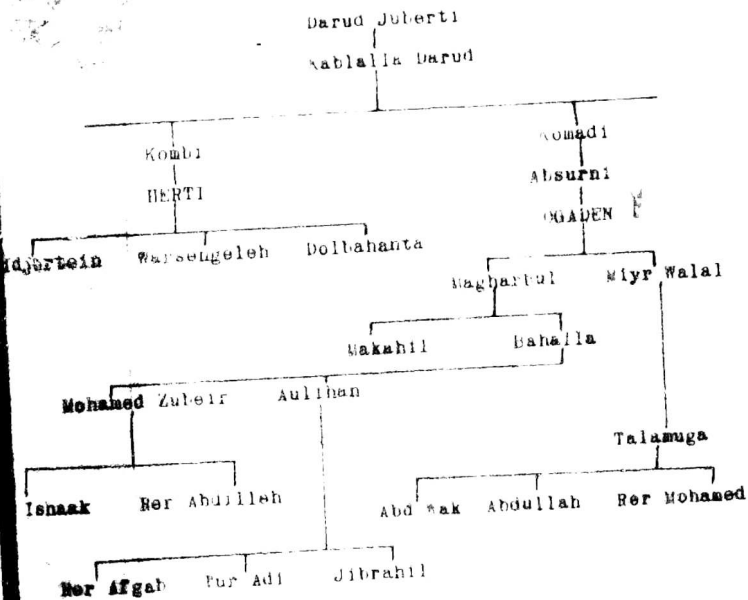
Captain Mure with his force should reach Afmadu three or four days after his arrival in Kismayu, and his presence there, coupled with the appearance of the man-of-war off Kismayu, will probably have a steadying effect on the Mohamed Zubeir.

In view of the situation the following

table

table showing the affinity of the Somali tribes may be of interest. All Somali in this Protectorate are descended from Kablalla Darud or Kablalla Isnaak, with the exception of the Marehan (sub-section Her Hassan) who claim descent from Issa Darud. The table was compiled by the late Lieutenant Elliot:-

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The members of the Isnaak tribes come from Northern Somaliland and are not connected with

with the Darud tribes. A number of them live in or near Nairobi, but they are practically unrepresented in Jubaland.

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Nairobi,
February 28th, 1916.

Additional Note. Since the above was written a telegram dated February 24th has been received from Mr. Power stating that it is quite likely that the Marehan will join the Aulihan.