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Foreign

1919

11 Nov

Last previous Paper.

70
54279

Next subsequent Paper.

70
68380

Maji Mission

In copy despatch from Addis Ababa containing report by Maj. Dorley & Maj. Athill approves demands proposed by Mr Campbell and suggests observations.

Mr. Bortonley, Sir H. Read

The report is interesting. It proposes that three demands should be made upon the Abyssinian Government:-

- (1) the immediate dismissal of Fitaurari Dasta, the Governor of Maji.
- (2) the definite delimitation of the frontier by an Anglo-Abyssinian Commission.
- (3) the recognition by the Abyssinian Government of a British frontier Agent.

It also suggests, for conson, the desirability of demanding an indemnity from the Abyssinian Government, and it touches upon the need of a closer administration of the frontier territory on our side of the boundary.

It is pretty obvious that any demands which we make upon the Abyssinian Government are likely to lead to no definite result in present circumstances, but that is no reason why they should not be made, and as the F.O. apparently see no objection from the

International

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CO 533
218
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Amis 18 Nov 19
Coffey, call 1919. B. C. C. 1919

there is not much force in the view, as
it is primarily a matter for the Ministry
to keep their hands from raising.

It will be sufficient to send a F.O.

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... of the ...
... the ...
... that the S. ...
... view
... that this aspect
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... London authorities

... that ... regards ...
... already been done to secure a
... period of the ...
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... in those parts; but that
he will consider ... consultation with
the ... of the two ...
... expected in this country, whether
any further steps can be taken.

S.H. ...
...
...
15/27.9

... the
... for ...
...
H. J.

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2C m

For further communication
reference please quote

148984/W

Under-Secretary of State
Foreign Office



Sir,

With reference to the S. of S. of 135286 of the 10th Oct. the Magi district of Adis Ababa to transmit to you CHARGE d'Affaires of a report the first place demands which Abyssinian Government Earl Curzon is, I suppose, to approve Mr. Campbell they stand, but he would be glad to know Milner has any observations to make upon of demanding an indemnity.

Should Lord Milner approve the demands proposed, Lord Curzon would suggest that in view of the extreme

Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,

instability

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British Legation,

Adis Ababa.

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145984

27 OCT 1919

September 21, 1919

RLO
12 NOV

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My Lord:-

With reference to my telegram No.132 of the 11th instant I have the honour to report that Major Darley and Major Athill have returned to Adis Ababa, having travelled from Meji via Marsalla, Khartoum and Jibuti.

I enclose herein copy of a summarized report which these two Officers have prepared. The fuller report will be forwarded in due course with copies of correspondence exchanged with the Abyssinian Commissioners and other letters of interest, but this cannot be ready for some days and my intention in calling for a summary was to enable Your Lordship to form an opinion on the demands to be made at the time of the enquiry which will be held on the return of the Abyssinian members of the Mission.

Perusal of the summary leaves no doubt that the Abyssinians raided, and even devastated British territory with the full knowledge, and evidently at the instigation of Fitaurari Dosta, Governor of Meji; they do not offer any excuse in mitigation of their crimes, but claim that the territory

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able
of Redleston K.O., G.O.S.I., G.O.I.E.,
to. etc.

state of affairs so long as Abyssinia remains independent, since it is in the nature of these people to run riot where there is no one to check them, but I cannot help feeling that we have a certain obligation towards natives living in our territory. We can protect here, as we do elsewhere, we can send missions to enquire, we can even set up frontier delimitation posts, but unless we are prepared to administer, or at least to patrol, our own country we cannot safeguard the inhabitants against violence of bands of marauding barbarians. The Abyssinians themselves ask why we want them to police our territory instead of doing it ourselves, and it is a difficult question to answer.

Copies of this despatch are being forwarded to Khartoum and Nairobi.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,
humble servant,

(signed) Gerald Campbell.

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 C. 323
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(1) The point South of which the River Kibish marks the Frontier.

(2) Mount Naita or Tid, in Abyssinian territory and five Kilometres North and East of the Frontier line.

(3) Mounts Tomadur and Kutul Birino, and the hills of Meiyno. These points are in British territory, and close to the Frontier.

(4) The Abyssinian Commissioners, whose followers were already suffering from fever, did not wish to visit Ileml, on account of its extreme unhealthiness. As we considered that we could define the frontier sufficiently nearly from the Boma plateau, we acceded to their wishes.

By pointing out the above features we established the fact that Duku, Quollu, Beru, Zelinamu and Naita are in Abyssinian, and Boma, Murle, Meiyino, Kutul Birino, Tomadur, Tirima, and Donyiro are in British territory.

B. All the raiders of British nationality were in the desert at the time of our visit. We therefore handed a list of their names to the local authorities, with the request that they should be arrested and sent to Adis Ababa. As the raiders are obliged to return to Maji, failure to arrest them will be a sure sign of lack of good will on the part of the Abyssinian authorities. We also handed in a list of Abyssinian officers whom we considered should be brought to Adis Ababa for examination.

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ed through his representative, ...
and, that all the countries ...
far as the Wei-wei ...
Rudolf, in the East ...
ward as far as ...
he actually carries on ...
instruction in the ...
in our opinion ...
raids and ...
troops at ...
was easily recognizable ...
bodies of ...
the latter were ...
sandy direct orders ...
-yessinian officers ...
were acting in accordance ...
open policy, if not by his direct orders.

4. Similarly Fitaurari Dester is ...
sible for the traffic in arms and slaves, ...
rest the participants in these trades would ...
seizing the entire male Abyssinian population of
Maji. The Governor of Maji has complete power to
control and suppress both forms of traffic. In
our opinion he has, on the contrary, countenanced
and encouraged them, and is entirely responsible
for their flourishing condition. Free issue
of arms was made by his officers to the Turkana,
on the grounds that they were Abyssinian subjects
These arms have been used against British troops
and friendly tribes.

5. Our report on the general state of the Fron
-tier is as follows---

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OF STATE FOR AFRICA
S.W. 1000

more in 1911 and in 1912
 Sudan. The elephants once plentiful on the
 Sudan of the border longer exist.
 Sudan set out with the full approval of the
 Russian Governor of the Sudan, the British and Egyptian
 The Shaukani Government has been
 Sudanese Government will
 Sudanese Government

ion of their land.
 probably remaining cultivators

The strip of the Sudan along the border has been
 cleared of all forms of life, for sixteen days
 after crossing the frontier, the Mission travelled
 without seeing a trace of native population.
 Lollai, once the headquarters of the Toposan tribe,
 where natives were first encountered, contained
 only a starving remnant.

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6. It must however be admitted that, in view of the complete lack of policing on the Sudan and Uganda side of the border, a predatory and in barbaric race, such as the Abyssinians, can hardly be expected to respect a frontier which they transgress daily with absolute impunity.

7. In our opinion, Fitaurari Desba has openly and beyond all dispute disregarded the Treaty made by the Emperor Menelik. He has encouraged slavery and oppression in their most revolting forms in British Territory. He is directly responsible for the killing of three Egyptian Officers and many other ranks in the performance of their duty.

8. His immediate removal, together with all his officers, from the control of any Frontier Province, and his adequate punishment, seem to us to be measures which should be enforced without further discussion on the Abyssinian Government, before any further negotiations on Frontier matters can be entered upon.

The appointment of an Agent with full powers to settle the affairs of and deport all undesirable British on the Abyssinian side of the Frontier also seems to us to be essential.

9. Should the Abyssinian Government consent to these two steps being taken, further action must depend on the policy of the new Governor of Maji.

Should the Government refuse to accede to these demands, and should the present régime continue at the

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AFRICA.

[October 27.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 4.

[145984]

No. 1.

Mr. Campbell to Earl Curzon.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 100.)

Adis Ababa, September 21, 1919.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 132 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report that Major Darley and Major Athill have returned to Adis Ababa, having travelled from Maji via Mongalla, Khartoum, and Jibuti.

I enclose herein copy of a summarised report which these two officers have prepared. A fuller report will be forwarded in due course, with copies of correspondence exchanged with the Abyssinian Commissioners and other letters of interest, but this cannot be ready for some days, and my intention in calling for a summary was to enable your Lordship to form an opinion on the demands to be made at the time of the enquiry which will be held here on the return of the Abyssinian members of the Mission.

A perusal of the summary leaves no doubt that the Abyssinians raided, and even devastated, British territory with the full knowledge and evidently at the instigation of Fitaurari Desta, Governor of Maji; they do not offer any excuse in palliation of their crimes, but claim that the territory belongs to them and not to us. According to them the Nile forms the frontier in the west and Wei-Wei (60 miles south of Lake Rudolf) in the south, and they even go so far as to regard us as the aggressors.

The position is impossible, and must be rectified, and I venture to propose that the following demands should be put forward officially at the enquiry:—

1. Immediate dismissal of Fitaurari Desta.
2. Definite delimitation of the frontier by Anglo-Abyssinian Commission and erection of beacons wherever necessary.
3. Recognition of appointment of British frontier agent, and of his right to pass freely within the limits of his district.

These demands are simple and moderate. Your Lordship may think fit to require the payment of an indemnity, but experience shows that the Abyssinian Government are unlikely to fulfil any engagement they may make in this respect unless His Majesty's Government are prepared to compel payment by force, and it is for this reason that I have not included it. The indemnity demanded for the murder of Captain Aylmer has not yet been paid.

Unofficially it might prove advisable to press for the reappointment of Dejaz Dampti as Governor of Maji. He held that post some years ago, and was a far more capable administrator than Fitaurari Desta or his father, Dejaz Biru. He was head of the Abyssinian Commission, and Major Darley found him friendly disposed towards us and much upset by the havoc wrought in the country since his departure. The matter needs careful handling, as, if the Abyssinian Government gain the impression that we want him there, they will, following their usual custom, banish him to some far-off province; but I believe with him as Governor of Maji and Major Darley as frontier agent a way could be found of restoring and maintaining peace and order.

But what impresses me more, in reading this summary, than the open violation of the frontier and the fact that the Abyssinians even carry on a certain administration in our territory, is the utterly inhumane devastation wrought by them in whatever territory is under their control. Whether the frontier is at Adis Ababa, the Nile, or the Atlantic, it is all the same. Their one ambition is to ravage and enslave, and there is scarcely a trace to-day, from Jimma to the frontier and from the frontier to within eighteen days' march in British territory, of the numerous and prosperous population formerly inhabiting one of the richest districts in Africa. It will be difficult to remedy this state of affairs so long as Abyssinia remains independent, since it is in the nature of these people to run riot where there is no one to check them; but I cannot help feeling that we have a certain obligation towards natives living in our territory. We can protest here against raids, we can send missions to enquire, we can even get the frontier delimited and beacons erected, but unless we are prepared to administer, or at least to patrol, our own country we cannot safe-

Report of the Maji Mission

The Maji Mission, we received the following information:

The Mission certain salient features of the frontier plain. The responsibility for the raids made into Dodosa and attacks made on British troops at Gwoko, on the 16th May, 1917, rests on the 27th May, 1917, when three Egyptian officers

with the Abyssinian Commissioners, such as had been given by the raids. Abyssinian subjects arrested by the Abyssinian Commission

have trade from Afssim into British territory. Arrest of those taking part in the raids is one of affairs of the South West frontier

Rudolf, and following

By pointing out the above names of the raiders, the following are in Abyssinian territory: Bern, Zelimany, and Naita are in Abyssinian territory. Borna, Mar, Mezzano, Ental, Burino, Tomador, Tirima, and Donyro are in British territory.

(5) All the raiders of British nationality were in the desert at the time of our visit. We therefore handed a list of their names to the local authorities, with the request that they should be arrested and sent to Addis Ababa. As the raiders are obliged to return to Maji, failure to arrest them will be a sure sign of lack of goodwill on the part of the Abyssinian authorities. We also handed in a list of Abyssinian officers whom we considered should be brought to Addis Ababa for examination.

3. Fitaurari Desta, Governor of Maji, claimed through his representative, Balambaras Damena, that all the country west of Lake Rudolf as far as the Wei Wei (60 miles south of Lake Rudolf, in the East African Protectorate), and westward as far as the Nile, was his territory. He actually carries on a certain administration in the north-east corner of this area. In our opinion he is responsible for all raids and acts of aggression against British troops. At Kalgalla, which was visited by us, and was easily recognisable owing to the still unburied bodies of the Abyssinians, the latter were commanded by Fitaurari Masheaha, sent by direct orders of Fitaurari Desta. Other Abyssinian officers commanding raiding

Government... complete and... in 1907... The... and great difficulties... humane one... For sixteen days... trace of native... where natives

must... on the... as the... early...

Should the... regime continue... seem to us impossible

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In any further communication on this subject, please quote

151314/c/115

Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1

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Urgent

Mr Bottomley

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents
his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for the
Colonies and, by direction of the Secretary
of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned
paper for observations.

Foreign Office,
13 Nov. 1919.

9419

Reference to previous correspondence:

Mr Bottomley's Letter to Foreign Office: Sir R. Graham of Feb. 28, 1919

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Danish Charge d'Affaires. Nov. 10	Count Frijs' farm in British East Africa

(Similar letter sent to

No. 1 of 187
house which bears
paid for.

The object of the Bill is to provide for the
was held out as a bribe and is in accordance with the
contract being held at his disposal by Messrs. Harrison,
Crosswell and Howland, Solicitors.

In regard to the Bill, on the information in
Your Lordship's above-mentioned note as to the transfer of
the property in question, has decided to leave for
British East Africa next month and would like to be able
to live in the house, built and paid for by him. I have
the

The Right Honourable
The Earl Curzon of Kedleston,
etc., etc., etc.

The honor to ask your lordship to be your good office

Wm. ...

your most obedient

servant

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65/67/19 Cal.

[Large handwritten flourish or signature]

DRAFT.

Mr. W. N.

to
F.O.

15. November 1919

MINUTE.

lie

- Mr. Prouce, 10 Nov
- Mr. Parkin ~~15.11.19~~
- Mr. A. W. Hamley 15.11.19
- Mr. Grindle
- Sir H. Lambert
- Sir H. Road
- Sir G. Fiddes
- Col. Amery
- Lord Milner

I am to wish the rest of
 your letter 151314 / C / 115 of the
 13th November regarding
 the number of palm near
 Hawaii to be used for
 stockpiling in to reform
 the Commission of the
 that I thought for approval

copy sent 1952. 19

*copy of copy
sent to
15/11/19*

no. 65762/19 Cab.

[Handwritten signature]

DRAFT.

Mr. H.
F.O.

15. November 1919

MINUTE.

lie,

- Mr. Proulx, 10 Nov
- Mr. Parkman
- Mr. Atkinson, 15.11.19
- Mr. Grindle, 15.11.19
- Sir H. Lambert.
- Sir H. Read.
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Col. Amery.
- Lord Milner.

I am in touch the part of
 your letter 151314 / C / Ws of the
 13th November regarding
 the number of farms near
 Helsinki to be used for
 stock and in to reform
 land usage in Finland
 that I thought I should approach

Copy sent 1952. 19. 11. 19

[Handwritten notes at bottom left]

C.O. 533 218

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November 19th

125

In a case No. 116 of February 1914
that the matter was referred to the
Court for its consideration.

The Court has considered the
matter and has decided in favor of
the plaintiff.

The Court has also decided that
the defendant is liable for the
damages claimed.

Very truly yours,

Legal Secretary

Courts, etc.

I have to report that the
Bank Ch. d'ap. should be
paid in the above sense in
reply to his request for such
assistance in the matter

PSUDIC N.C.
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W. H. H. H. H.