

*Nov 13*

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F.O.

1919

14 Nov

Last previous Paper

*66140*

*Italian Aspirations*

~~Mr. Parkinson.~~

~~Mr. Bottomley~~

~~Sir H. Read.~~

*Br. G. Ziller*

Also 65957 and 66140.

On November 14th Lord Milner received the Italian Ambassador and delegates of the Italian Government who had come to discuss the practical application of the arrangements arrived at in the Milner - Tittoni correspondence. Sir H. Read and Mr. Sperling of the Foreign Office were present.

Four matters were discussed

(1) The exact location of the new boundary between Egypt and Libya under the Milner - Tittoni arrangement. This led to prolonged discussion, but it is a Foreign Office matter and need not be dealt with here.

(2) Jubaland. The Italian representatives pressed for an enlargement in a westerly direction of the northern part of the area to be ceded to Italy. The gist of their proposal was that they wanted Doyale to be included in the territory, but that, failing this, they would like

Next subsequent Paper

*68376*

as much territory in this direction as they could get. Lord Milner said, that it was out of the question to contemplate the cession of Moyale to Italy; the place was an important administrative centre and if we gave it up we should probably have to go back to Marsabit. He would however be prepared to consider the alteration in Italy's favour of the proposed new boundary so as to make it <sup>more</sup> or less due north from Eil Wak to the Abyssinian frontier, but as to this it would be necessary first to discuss the matter with the Governor of the East Africa Protectorate who was on his way home.

cf. the original proposal from the

(3) Railway connections. The Italian representatives said that they wanted to make some proposals as to this, but were not quite ready with them and would put in a memorandum on the question the next day.

(4) Various points in connection with the cession of part of Jubaland were raised.

(a) The Italians said they would agree to indemnify the Sultan of Zanzibar for the coast strip of the territory to be ceded to them; they thought it would be best to do this by payment of a lump sum as they had done in Italian Somaliland.

(b) The Italians undertook to purchase at a fair price all immovable Government property in the area in Jubaland which they will take over.

(c) They undertook to allow British firms and individuals in the ceded territory to "carry on" or alternatively, if they preferred it, to remove into British territory.

(d) The Italians agreed to give us a concession in Kiwayu on the same terms as those on which we have hitherto given them one in the town.

When matters had reached this point Lord Milner suggested that the Italian representatives should visit the Foreign Office the next day and take up the question of drafting a treaty which would as far as possible embody all these points.

The next stage is shown by Mr. Sperling's letter to Sir H. Read 65967 enclosing the draft of a convention with Italy as regards compensating Italy under the 1915 Treaty of London and 66140 enclosing seven memoranda on various Colonial questions handed to Mr. Sperling by the Italian representatives. It appears that when matters had got thus far Sir E. Crowe telegraphed from Paris deprecating the conclusion of a separate arrangement with the Italians as regards Egypt and Jubaland on the ground that it would be necessary to use this question as a lever in effecting a settlement with the Italians as regards the Adriatic and Asia Minor. On receipt of this <sup>telegram</sup> Foreign Office are understood to have put off the Italian delegates by saying that they <sup>had</sup> to await certain information from the local authorities and the Italian delegates have since returned home.

In the circumstances it does not seem necessary to do anything at present as regards ~~the~~ draft treaty (which seems prima facie all right, but will want further examination) or the seven Italian memoranda.

As regards the latter, 2 and 4 do not concern the Colonial Office and 3 requires no separate action. Mr. Strachey should see 6 (Commercial Agency in Nigeria) and Mr. Davis 7 (Economic activities of Italy in Angola). 1 and 5 raise important questions, the former nothing less than the future of Abyssinia, but both are for the Foreign Office primarily and we can wait for them to take the matters up.

As regards the Jubaland question, the first thing to do is to discuss matters with Sir E. Northey on his arrival and the most important points to be taken up with him are:-

(A) How much more could and should we cede to Italy westwards between Eil Wak and the Abyssinian frontier.

(B) To what extent must we consult or inform the Sultan of Zanzibar before we arrange for the Italians to take over the coast strip in the new area which nominally belongs to him.

(C) Has Sir E. Northey any observations on the points of detail in connection with the session which are referred to at 4 (a) (b) (c) and (d) above?

EN 1/2/19

was <sup>recd</sup> 1.12.19

1.2.19

1/24/19

1/2/19

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FRANCE

POLITICAL

Telegram (en clair) from Sir E. Crowe. (Astoria, Paris).

D. November 17th. 1919.

R. November 19th. 1919.

Clare.

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I learn from a letter from Mr. Sperling to Mr.

that it is contemplated to proceed at once

to the sessions jointly on the west frontier of

France and in Juliard. It had always been - and Mr.

will be able to confirm this - understood here

no definite decision will be made except as to

general arrangement which would include the

of the Atlantic and Asiatic.

It is earnestly

that there will be no separation from this under-

standing, as otherwise we shall be deprived of the best

of the future, which will be of the utmost value to

especially in dealing with Italian claims in Asia

Mr.

450

DOWLING STREET,

10 December, 1919.

Dear Mr. Clarke,

Thank you for your letter of the 5th December enquiring as to the future of Jubaland.

I am afraid I cannot at present say more than that no definite arrangement on the questions to which you refer has been arrived at as yet.

Yours sincerely,

*wcd*

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for Mr. Botwin's signature

10 Dec. 1919

DRAFT.

Dear Mr. Clarke

see esp. M. BE

Thank you for

your letter of the

MINUTE.

of the ... inquiring as

- Mr. ... 9/12/19
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... sincerely

W.S.

his [unclear]

As you know, the territory on the  
 Inba River ~~is certainly~~ with  
 certainly as to Italy & the  
 Italian fact has promised  
 specifically that British settlers  
 in the ceded for him may either  
 stay where they are or attempt  
 settling elsewhere or may  
 move into Br. territory without  
 hindrance.

The treatment of special interests  
 in the area to be ceded was  
 to form the subject of discussion  
 with General Murray.

(handwritten mark)

But as the whole thing is  
 secret at present no definite  
 heads having yet been signed with  
 Italy, a true matter I suppose  
 the committee held by Clarke  
 & must say that no definite  
 arrangement in these matters  
 has yet been agreed upon.

Handwritten notes on the left margin.

at [unclear] [unclear]

Est. 1/2/14

PHC/DR

USTEAD BROS

INCORPORATED  
5910 AVENUE

1000 ADDRESS  
GRACE  
LONDON

PAID BY  
NEEDS BOUNDED  
BY GEORGE HENRY  
BY ROBERTA  
DOUGLAS HONEY

163

5, Tenburch Street

London, E.C.3. December 5th 1919

C. Bottonley, Esq.,  
Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
S.W. 1.

Dear Mr. Bottonley,

For the last year I have been hearing many rumours to the effect that Jubaland is going to be handed over to the Italians. Would it be possible for you to tell me if this is so?

My reason for asking is, that I own a farm on the River Juba which I bought some years ago from the Government and on which I have spent rather a large amount of money.

I have no wish whatsoever to hold interest in a foreign country and would like to know if the Government have any proposals about the land they have sold in the past.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*H. Clarke*