

East Afr. Prot.

68380

68380

RECD  
REF. DIV. 15

Foreign

# MAGI MISSION

1919

Nov

at previous Paper.

Two copies held from Adli Abatra & Reply from FO  
re Major Athills return

68322

Wm Mackley  
Wm Mackley

? Put by

11/12/19

It is to be noted that we might do as the  
a branch of FO. to our 1000  
of Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> (\$7690) & ask  
what time in the new g. for  
great importance to Vana (Hana)

of the Hana port being filled  
during the next few months

It will be possible for  
at the same time with the existing return

Revised copy  
copy comm. for copy 11 Dec 1919

at subsequent Paper.

75/690674

at 2.12.19

at 2.12.19

68380

and  
Confidential.

58380  
172  
REC-10

SL-733

Reference to previous correspondence

From Foreign Office

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents  
his compliments to *The Under Secretary of State*  
*for the Colonies*, and is directed by the Secretary of State  
to transmit the accompanying copies of *2* telegram *Sin*  
as marked in the margin.

Foreign Office,

*how 29* 1919

Similar letter sent to:—

6236  
REC'D  
MAY 1 1919

FILES ONLY.

Major Dodds (Adia, Abeba) November 12th 1919.

D. 4.0 p.m. November 13th 1919.

H. 10.0 p.m. November 22nd 1919.

French Mission.

considered Major (? At) his retention here which involves unnecessary expense is not essential.

is (? possible) Abyssinian Commissioner may be delayed for two or even more months.

statement that Atall will (? make) is indisputable and does not admit of argument.

suggest he should have this in to government in person when return home.

Major Darley can remain and (? answer) (? any) questions meeting.

If you approve I will suggest his departure to Abyssinian government.

Reply to (? the last) question early. (a)

54733).

27

C/O  
68380  
REC  
DEC 10  
413A

Other telegram to Major Dods. (Addis Ababa),  
Foreign Office, November 27th. 1919. 7.0.p.m.  
0.134.

Your telegram No. 156 (of November 12th. Major  
Athill's return.

No objection to Athill returning; I approve  
approaching Abyssinian Government.



CONFIDENTIAL

SECTION I.

45984]

No. 1

195

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.**Foreign Office, November 11, 1919.*

With reference to the Foreign Office letter of the 4th October, relative to the Magi district of Abyssinia which has recently returned to Adis Ababa, directed by Earl Curzon of Kedleston to transmit to you herewith a despatch of His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Adis Ababa, containing a summary of a report by Major Darley and Major Atherton, I am in the first place to invite your attention to the demands which Mr. Campbell proposes should be made to the Abyssinian Government.

As Curzon is disposed, subject to Lord Milner's concurrence, to approve Mr. Campbell's proposals as they stand, but he would be glad to know whether Lord Milner has any observations to make upon the advisability of demanding autonomy.

Should Lord Milner approve the demands proposed, Lord Curzon would suggest in view of the extreme instability of the political conditions in Abyssinia, it be left to the discretion of His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to choose the proper time for putting them forward; a telegram making enquiries of Major Dodds on this point has been sent to Adis Ababa, a copy of which is transmitted to you herewith.

Lord Curzon feels strongly the justice of Mr. Campbell's observations on the need of any solution of this problem is to be reached, of ensuring that the British territories contiguous to the Abyssinian border should be administered or patrolled more completely than at present. He is bringing this aspect of the case to the notice of the authorities in the Soudan, and would be grateful to be informed of Lord Milner's views on the subject.

I am, &amp;c.

D. SPICER.

\* Mr. Campbell, No. 100, September 21, 1919. [45984].

† To Mr. Campbell, No. 321, Telegraphic, November 11, 1919.

478

AFRICA.

[November 11.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 2.

[145984]

No. 1.

*Earl Curzon to Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby.*

No. 618.)  
My Lord,

*Foreign Office, November 11, 1919.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Adis Ababa dealing with the late mission sent to the Malla district of Abyssinia with the object of investigating the raids which have taken place across the adjoining border.

I should like to draw your special attention to the last paragraph of Mr. Campbell's despatch, pointing out that no permanent solution can be found for the present condition of affairs on the frontier, until the British side is adequately administered or at least patrolled. I agree in general with Mr. Campbell's observations, and should be glad to know whether steps can be taken to ensure that an adequate frontier force shall be available for service on the border between Abyssinia and Soudan.

I am, &c.

CURZON OF KEDLESTON

[14861-2]

AFRICA.

[November 17.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECRET 2.

32691

No. 1.

*Major Dodds to Earl Curzon.—(Received November 17.)*

1123

Addis Ababa, October 21, 1919.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the political situation in this country has improved during the last month. I am assured by both Ras Tafari and the Fitawrari Hapta Giorgis that the differences that existed between them have been arranged and that their intention is to work together in the future. I think they believe in their own sincerity, but in a country such as this, where the smallest incident creates an open quarrel, I fear the settlement is not of an irrevocable nature. Immediately after my arrival I have talked at length with the leaders of the Government, and have taken every opportunity to impress upon them the urgent necessity of unity between them all for the good of their country. They have all assured me that this is their intention.

However sincere the leaders may be, I do not hesitate in saying that they are completely incapable of putting the administration of Abyssinia on a sound basis. The present Government have lost prestige and power throughout the country, which they cannot recover. Their orders are ignored in the provinces, and it is only within a reasonable distance of the capital that they can command obedience. Such is the present situation. We can expect little or nothing from the Government. The régime of misgovernment and utter incompetence will continue till the end of the chapter, and we, the Powers, must make the best of it.

The Government does not attempt to deny the facts, and the leaders are much concerned as to the future. The possibility of European intervention and a mandate has been discussed. They have the idea of a mandate, and after seeking everywhere for a solution of their difficulties they now look for the preservation of the independence of Abyssinia under the wing of the League of Nations.

Another mission to Europe has been in contemplation for some time. I have spoken on this subject, but do not seem at all clear as to the objects of this mission, but they are agreed that it should consist of high chiefs, even Ras Tafari himself, who should, in a general way, approach the Powers with regard to the future of Abyssinia, and attempt to negotiate themselves with the Governments concerned in their country. The majority are now opposed to the despatch of the mission on the grounds that the Powers would be certain to insist on reforms.

Even if a mission is sent eventually we can, I think, be certain that Ras Tafari will not be a member. He cannot afford to leave the country, as his absence would surely lose him the throne.

Both Ras Kassa and Ras Tafari have spoken to me at length on the subject of Abyssinia entering the League of Nations. Ras Tafari realises the absurdity of Abyssinia in view of the general condition of the country, but Ras Kassa believes in the necessity as the only means of saving the country. He has asked me to prepare arguments for and against the scheme. The time has arrived when only complete success serves our purpose, and I propose to tell him that, until the Government has established order throughout Abyssinia, abolished slavery, and instituted other necessary reforms, they are unfit to approach the League of Nations, but that as soon as these reforms are established I feel sure they will be welcomed by the League.

These Abyssinian chiefs, who care for their country present pathetic figures. They are at their wits end to know what course to follow. The Empress has given me no hints, and I find it difficult to advise them, knowing them to be incapable of following the only advice that is of any value. I have preached unity, peace, and reform, but I do not deceive myself that my advice will be followed.

In all my conversations with the Empress, Tafari, and the chiefs, I have been careful to assure them that the policy of Great Britain, to respect the independence of Abyssinia, remains the same, but I have been most emphatic in telling

AFRICA

[November 28.]

CONFIDENTIAL

SECTION 1.

2691]

No. 1.

Earl Curzon to Major Dodds

(136.)  
(graphic.)

Foreign Office, November 28, 1919.

YOUR despatch No. 112 of 21st October relative to British political situation in Abyssinia.

I approve your language generally and proposed attitude on the subject of entry of Abyssinia into League of Nations.

[1486]

them that Great Britain now looks to Abyssinia to pull herself together and to put her country in order. I have laid great stress on the urgent need for the restoration of order on the frontiers of our protectorate.

I propose to make the question of Gaddaduma the subject of a despatch in the near future, as I expect soon to discuss the matter with the Emperor and the Emperor's representatives. I may say now, however, that I have been surprised by the attitude taken by Tadesse and the others with respect to our occupation of this place. Only the Fitaurari H. Giorgis appears deeply hurt at our high-handed action, as he is pleased to call it. The rest seem more or less apathetic. I have impressed on them all that Great Britain has been forced, by the utter negligence and incompetence of the Abyssinian Government, to take this step, but that, if they view the matter in the right light, they will realize that it is, after all, the action of a friend and an ally. I have given them to understand clearly that we are at Gaddaduma at great inconvenience to ourselves, and that the moment the Abyssinian Government fulfil their promises to restore order, but before we will quit with the greatest pleasure and relief. These remarks, I may say, will not prejudice our position if we decide to negotiate with the Government for the sale or lease of Gaddaduma.

I am of the opinion that the occupation of Gaddaduma, accidental though it is, is the best move we have made in Abyssinia for a very long time. For years past we have indulged in endless discussions with the Abyssinian Government over the frontier question and have achieved nothing. At last we have done something. We have occupied Gaddaduma. It is the form of argument that appeals to the Abyssinians, as long as the Government understands clearly our motive and our intentions, to evacuate so soon as they have restored order. I believe this action will be productive of salutary results. It has certainly increased our prestige in Abyssinian eyes. They are now saying that the British are strong. I shall watch this situation very carefully and report any developments immediately.

I regret I am unable to give a more cheerful report on the general situation in the country, but it can hardly be expected. The Abyssinian Government will march along, hampered by intrigues and incompetent to achieve anything, until the interested Powers take the matter of the future of this country in hand.

In the meantime I shall make my best effort to persuade the Government to restore order on our frontiers, and to attempt to bring those questions outstanding with the Government to a successful termination.

Copies of this despatch are being addressed to Cairo, Khartoum, Nairobi, and Berbera.

I have, &c.  
J. H. DODDS



Dept. of the 11<sup>th</sup> of Oct. regarding  
the proposed appt. of Major  
Lawrance as H.M. Vice Consul  
at Harar.

2. I am so enquire whether  
in view of the great importance  
to Somaliland of the post at  
Harar ~~not~~ being ~~left vacant~~  
~~it~~ filled during the next few  
months, it would not be possible  
to arrange for Major Atkell or  
another officer to be stationed  
there until the end of Feb.

I am or HJR