

SOMALILAND
East Africa
69226

C O
69226
5 DEC 1919

F.O.

1919

ITALIAN COLONIAL ASPIRATIONS.

3rd Dec.

Last previous Paper

The copies of memo communicated to H.M.G. by Italian Delegation recently in London to negotiate conclusion of African negotiations together with a F.O. memo on subject; requests views.

M
54241

~~Mr. P. J. Harding~~
~~Mr. D. G. ...~~

It was found ... as to points 6 & 7 ...
respectively ... see 1640 ...
... whether it ...
... The East African ...
... word ...
dealt with ...

Amis Secret 24 Feb 1920

It is not clear what the Italian Govt mean by the concession to establish commercial agencies in Nigeria

Next subsequent Paper
FO
10553/20

on June last they asked whether there would be any objection to the app...

Italian Consular Officers
 at Kano & Lagos in the interests
 of Italian Tripolitan subjects
 there (37949/19 Ng); & we
 replied that there was no
 objection. If the Italian Govt now
 mean more than that, they
 had better say what exactly
 they do mean.

I have spoken to Mr. G. (ambled about
 Kano) of the Italian Access. He thinks
 that we should say to F.O. that we do not know
 what the concerns in question are but
 that if his wife (Mrs. G. S. Gifford), we shall be
 prepared to con with the same if so desired,
 being happy to be the same as mandatary of S. G. Africa
 and how he more directly interested in Anglo than
 in the last.

See also 16371/19

As regards I have discovered that
 1. 5th Memoranda -

- N^o 2 - and it do not concern C.O. (i.e. Arabia & Egypt)
- N^o 6 - See Mr. J. Gordon's minute above (i.e. Cameroon)
- N^o 7 - See Mr. Davis' minute above (i.e. Angola)
- N^o 3 (Zimbabwe) - See minute on N/2539/20
- N^o 5 (Mining up communication) - This evidently
 refers to the future contingencies, not
 to existing circumstances.

General principle, it will be equally
advantageous to both sides to form a
congressional commission on equality
of treatment for immigrants & goods is
undoubtedly necessary in any event
in connexion with the Convention
replacing British & American acts. 1886

As far as C.O. is concerned,
I think we reply to F.O. and is that
in principle the proposals appear to
be acceptable, but that it is not
obvious how the question will arise
in regard to British E.A. or British
Colonial - a Italian territory
in Africa - & that ^{fully} detailed info. as
to its application ought to be asked
for in order to ascertain more
clearly what the Italian Govt.
has in mind.

No. 1. (Algeria) - For history see 7077924/20
Somewhat below.

See also 7078741/16 & 7071071/14
E.A. below including copy with the
former paper.

It seems to me that we may
argue for years, just as they did
before getting the Superior Court
& we shall not be any forward
in the matter. Therefore after

Abyssinia. Especially - If an C.O.
is concerned, it would surely be made
clear that we have a workable
frontier between East Abyssinia -
that the valuable province of
Harar is not given away - & so
lost to the Somaliland, at least
without adequate gain in the
Sudana region for the Sudan.

If an C.O. is concerned,
reply might be that Govt. of Sudan
is mainly concerned with army
arrangements made for the future
of Abyssinia - [but that it is
considered improbable that an
agreement as to spheres of interest
or any similar arrangement could
be entered into with Italy at present -
that in these circumstances
it would seem preferable for the British
to confine themselves to securing
the integrity & independence of
Abyssinia] - but that if negotiations
are entered into, C.O. should be
advised of & allowed to comment
on any proposals affecting
the Harar Province & the East
boundary.

with 70 letter & reply as above

subdivision Harar mission

A.C.P.

15/7/20

Mr H. Glad.

That will come from the C.O.
before you, but the demand for
"economic" rights is a threat
of "theopia" after the manner

to C.O. 14/2/20

Left: Enon

at home

to J. R.

14/2/20

In any further communication
on the subject, please quote

No. 13037/W/50.

and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

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69225
5 350

FOREIGN OFFICE

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December 3rd, 1919.

Sir:-

I am directed by Earl Curzon of Kedleston to transmit to you, herewith, two printed copies of a memorandum communicated to His Majesty's Government by the Italian Delegation recently in London to negotiate the conclusion of the African negotiations carried on at Paris by Lord Milner and Signor Tittoni. Copy of the memorandum has already been communicated to your department semi-officially.

You observe from the memorandum, copy of which is also enclosed herewith, that His Majesty's Government broke off the negotiations partly on the ground that the proposals contained in the Italian memorandum went far beyond the questions discussed by Lord Milner at Paris. Lord Curzon wishes however that the Italian Government may raise these further questions at any time in the future and he would therefore be glad to receive the observations of the Acting Secretary of State for the Colonies thereon at your early convenience.

The map of Abyssinia has not been reproduced but it may be stated that it is coloured so as to include in the Italian sphere the whole of Abyssinia except (a) a sphere adjacent to French Somaliland bounded on the west by the course of the Gidda river from its

Under-Secretary of State,

source

Colonial Office,

source to its junction with the Blue Nile, thence down the Blue Nile to its junction with the Muger, thence, approximately, South East past Adis Ababa to the Hawash, thence along the Hawash to the intersection of the Jibuti railway and along (but south of) that railway to Biré Dawa. From Biré Dawa to Gildessa, thence, roughly, to Jis Jigga, which is not marked by name, and due south east to the intersection of latitude 8° north and longitude 44° east north to its intersection with the frontiers of British and Italian Somaliland.

The northern frontier of this sphere from the source of the Gidda towards French Somaliland is so roughly marked that it cannot be described.

(b) A sphere bounded very approximately by longitude 36° east from the neighbourhood of Gallabat to its intersection with latitude 8° north, thence due South east via the north end of Lake Regina Margh to latitude 6° north, along that degree of latitude to the intersection of the river Ganale Doria and down the course of that river to Dolo. The district within the above area west of Adis Ababa and between the Blue Nile and Ganale Doria where those rivers flow respectively roughly west and east is marked in lines as being of doubtful allocation, but, as stated above, the whole map is very roughly drawn and has no geographical value.

I am,
 Sir,
 Your most obedient
 humble Servant,

Gerald Spicer

CONFIDENTIAL

SECTION I.

153037]

— No. 1.

489A

Colonial Questions which are to form the subject of an Agreement between the Government of His Britannic Majesty and the Government of the King.—Communicated by Italian Delegation in London.—(Received November 18, 1919.)

(Translation.)

1. ETHIOPIA (with one map*).
2. Arabia.
3. Jubaland.
4. Frontiers between Cyrenaica and Egypt (with one map*).
5. Joining up of ways of communication in Africa.
6. Commercial agencies.
7. Economic activities of Italy in Angola.

In respect of each of these questions a special memorandum is annexed.
London, November 17, 1919.

Memorandum

No. 1.—*Franco-Anglo-Italian Economic Activity in Ethiopia.*

Italy invites Great Britain to consider the backward state of development of Ethiopia in which country there exist customs at variance with the laws of civilisation, and which is very far from attaining the economic well-being which is warranted by its extent, its wealth, and its fertility.

However, the Ethiopian Empire, although unable to extricate itself from this condition of inferiority by the means at its disposal, has nevertheless hitherto refused all offers of help on the part of the three bordering States, fearing that their economic, industrial, and financial activity would be the forerunner of territorial occupation.

Dominated by this fear, Ethiopia has hitherto believed it to be in her own interests to refuse demands for concessions which have been presented to her separately and to baffle which the conflicting views of the three Powers has encouraged.

There is no reason why this state of affairs should continue; there is on the contrary every reason why it should cease as soon as possible, and that Great Britain, France, and Italy should without delay adopt a policy of efficacious cooperation for the progress of Abyssinia.

It is evident that it is necessary before everything else to reassure Ethiopia that Great Britain, France, and Italy desire that her integrity and independence shall be respected and guaranteed. The first step to be taken is therefore to approach the Ethiopian Government collectively, giving them a sincere and positive assurance that it is the firm intention of the three Powers to guarantee the integrity and independence of Ethiopia, each of the three Powers guaranteeing the fulfilment of the intention of the others.

The form of this assurance, which is in agreement with our loyal intentions, must be explicit and such as to inspire the most absolute confidence of the Ethiopian Government. At the same time, and always collectively, it is necessary to prove to the Government of Ethiopia that the latter will be the first to benefit by the exploitation of the country's wealth, which has hitherto remained latent.

All this must naturally be preceded by an understanding between the three high contracting parties, which, upon the basis of the Tripartite Agreement of 1906, will under possible the practical development of the interests of Great Britain, France, and Italy, to the advantage of Ethiopia herself.

Reserving to ourselves, naturally, the right of coming to a common agreement with France, as circumstances may render necessary, we desire to examine here more especially the interests which concern more especially [sic] Great Britain and Italy.

* Not reproduced.

No. 4.—Frontier between Cyrenaica and Egypt

The Italian Government proposes to the British Government that the frontier between Cyrenaica and Egypt shall be established as hereunder described, in conformity with the sketch annexed hereto.

The line starts from Ras Djebel Sollum (Beacon Point) and turns to the west, passing to the north of Sollum, and then continues in a direct line as far as the juncture of longitude 25° east Greenwich with parallel 30° north, passing between Amsebat and Sollum, leaving Amsebat to Cyrenaica. The line then follows longitude 25° east Greenwich, leaving to Italy the whole of the Oasis of Djarabab, turning to the south until it meets the 16° north parallel. It follows this parallel towards the west until it meets the line of demarcation between the French and English spheres of influence defined in the additional Declaration of the 21st March, 1895.

No. 5.—Joining up of Ways of Communication in Africa.

Great Britain and Italy recognise the reciprocal right of joining up railway communications, caravan routes, and all other means of communication which may be established in future in the Colonies.

Great Britain and Italy likewise agree that on the said ways of communication cumulative services of transport may be established, and that equality of treatment may be applied both to passengers and goods.

No. 6.—Commercial Agencies.

Italy demands from Great Britain that the concession may be granted to her to establish commercial agencies in Nigeria, in Wadai, in Darfur, in Cordofan, and in the Sudan with a view principally to facilitating commerce between these regions and the Italian possessions.

No. 7.—Economic Activity of Italy in Angola.

Italy has turned her attention to the Portuguese possessions in West Africa with a view to placing there a portion of the excess of her manufactures, and to procuring for her own industries the raw materials which she lacks. Preliminary understandings of a friendly nature have been entered upon with the Portuguese Government, and Italian companies have already been formed with this end in view.

Italy requests that Great Britain will lend her support with the Portuguese Government for the smooth development of these activities, which are purely economic, and she requests more particularly the support of the Government of His Britannic Majesty in order that the Italian companies may replace the German companies in respect of concessions granted to the latter by the Portuguese Government.

In view of the predominant interests of Great Britain in respect of the control of the waters of Lake Tsana, Italy offers Great Britain her support in order that she may obtain from Ethiopia the concession to carry out works of barrage in the lake itself within the Italian sphere of influence, pending the delimitation of the extent of the territorial zone to be recognised as pertaining to Great Britain in respect of the latter's predominant hydraulic interests, and pending a just consideration of the reservations made on behalf of Italy by the Tripartite Agreement likewise in respect of her hydraulic interests. Italy further offers her support to Great Britain in order that the latter may obtain from Ethiopia, within the sphere of Italian influence, a sufficient corridor in order to establish a territorial juncture between Lake Tsana and the Sudan.

Italy requests the support of Great Britain in order that she may obtain from the Ethiopian Government the concession to construct and to run the railway from the frontier of Erythrea to the frontier of Italian Somaliland; which railway, according to the Tripartite Agreement must pass to the west of Adis Ababa. It is understood that this railway, together with all the necessary works for its construction and for its running, must have an entirely free passage through the above-mentioned corridor.

Italy demands from Great Britain—exclusive economic influence in the west of Ethiopia and in the whole of the territory to be crossed by the above-mentioned railway, and the promise to support with the Ethiopian Government all the demands for economic concessions regarding the Italian zone.

The three high (contracting) parties will have to agree to present collectively and by common accord immediately after having given collectively and by common accord the above-mentioned loyal assurances, either these requests, or all the demands for concessions of an economic character already known to the Ethiopian Government, since it is only thus possible, by eliminating suspicion, to remove all reasons for future hesitation.

The Italian Government hopes that this statement, based on a true consideration of their common interests and of those of Ethiopia herself, may be favourably received by the other two Governments.

In this trust, the Italian Government, after having examined separately for greater facility the predominant Anglo-Italian and Franco-Italian interests, reserves to itself the right of demanding that a common agreement shall be arrived at, giving in detail by an interchange of notes, the ensemble of the negotiations which will have to contain an Anglo-Franco-Italian understanding in respect of (the maintenance of) economic order in Ethiopia.

Such (a maintenance of) economic order will be able to be realised by the assumption on the part of an Anglo-Franco-Italian company of monopolies of public works and services in respect of the whole of the territory of the Ethiopian Empire.

In the zones of respective influence the said monopolies, works, and public services will be to be sub-conceded to subjects or companies belonging to the State to which the zone of influence devolves.

The capital of the Ethiopian Empire will remain outside of all (spheres of) influence and the respective monopolies, works, and public services will interest on an equal footing the three high contracting parties.

No. 2.—Arabia.

Keeping in mind articles 10, 11, 12, regarding the Arabian Peninsula and the Red Sea, of the Anglo-French London Agreement of the 9th May, 1916, to which Italy adhered by the interchange of notes of the 18th August, 1917, between the Royal Ambassador and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of His Britannic Majesty, and in view of article 12 of the London Agreement of the 26th April, 1915, Italy and Great Britain agree as to the necessity of securing at all times full and absolute liberty of exchange and trade between Arabia and the territories on the opposite bank of the Red Sea.

No. 3.—Jubaland.

The question of the cession on the part of the British Government to Italy a part of the territory of the British protectorate of East Africa bordering on Southern Italian Somaliland forms the subject of contemporaneous negotiations with the Colonial Office.

C. G.
69225

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The Italian Delegation referred to in the letter of October 16 from the Italian Ambassador to Lord Hardinge as proceeding to London in order to transform into a formal exchange of notes the colonial agreement privately concluded between Lord Milner and Signor Tittoni, was received by Lord Milner on the 14th instant.

Lord Milner stated that he was unable to agree to the attribution to Italy of a larger zone in Jabalanda without consultation with the governor of British East Africa, who was on his way to London but could not arrive for some two or three weeks.

The Italian Delegation then desired to reopen the question of the frontier between Egypt and Cyrenaica as previously agreed upon between Lord Milner and Signor Tittoni in Paris. For this purpose they were referred to the Foreign Office, where they were received on the 24th instant, and were handed a draft convention embodying the arrangements agreed upon in Paris.

At this meeting the Italian Delegation developed their claim as regards the Egyptian frontier and it became apparent that the presence of the official who was attached to Lord Milner during the negotiations in Paris would be required. This official could not be spared for the moment from his duties in Paris.

The Italian Delegation also communicated to the Foreign Office proposals for an agreement about various other African questions which had not previously been discussed with Lord Milner, nor with any other representative of His Majesty's Government.

On

On preliminary examination it was evident that these questions would not be treated without reference to His Majesty's Diplomatic and Colonial Representatives in the countries concerned, and the Italian Delegation would have been so informed at their next meeting at the Foreign Office.

Before any such meeting could be held or the views of the Italian Delegation on the draft Convention were received, the Foreign Office was informed by the Italian Embassy that the Italian Delegation had been recalled to Rome and would have to leave by the beginning of the present week.

In these circumstances His Majesty's Government felt that it would be useless to pursue the negotiations.

His Majesty's Government note with satisfaction from the letter of the Italian Ambassador that the Italian Government are prepared to recognize the British Protectorate in Egypt and they are ready to discuss any modifications in the formula communicated semi-officially to the Italian Ambassador.

His Majesty's Government consider however that it would be best on general grounds to postpone any further discussion of the African proposals until a settlement can be negotiated of all territorial questions at issue, especially as these questions arise out of the Peace Treaty and the recent action of the United States Senate creates some uncertainty with regard to the final form which that treaty will assume.

Foreign Office.

20th November 1919.

The J.G. will wish to be advised of
any proposals affecting the Italian
Province or the boundary between
 Abyssinia & the E.A.P., etc. to afford
an opportunity of commenting on them.

(2) Arabia

This dept is not concerned.

(3) Jubaland

No further action in connection with
the proposed cession of territory to
Italy in the Jubaland Province of the
E.A.P. is required at present.

(4) Cyrenaica & Egyptian Provinces

This dept is not concerned.

(5) Turning up of maps of Somalia in Africa

^{K. Christoff}
So far as the maps in connection with the
proposed abd. appear to be already made
in principle, but it is not clear how
the question now is likely to arise
in regard to East Somaliland or
the E.A.P. & Italian Somaliland.
It is suggested that fuller info. as
to the application might be asked
for, before any ~~steps~~ ^{steps} of preparation
even on the principle, in order to
ascertain more clearly what

(1) Commercial Agencies

It is not understood what
the Station Gvt. mean by a
concession to establish
commercial agencies in
Nigeria. In June last
the Station Gvt. required whether
there would be any objection to the
appt. of Italian Consular
Officers at Kano & Lagos
in the interests of Italian
Nigerian subjects. A
reply was sent to the Gvt.
that to the effect that this
Dept. has no objection
if the Station Gvt. was contemplating

DRAFT.

MINUTE.

Some arrangements
to the above effect,
it will be
necessary
to obtain
further
info. in
order to
consider
the matter

(7) Congo

It is not known to what
"concessions" the Station Gvt.
refer, but if info. can be
supplied on this point, etc.
The Dept. will be prepared to
consult the Gvt. of the
Union of Africa, if so
desired. It will be
noted that the Union

This dept is not
concerned.

(S) H/P/R

as a consequence of this
mandate for the first time
of great importance will
be made directly interested
in another than the point.