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7. 2. 1919

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159496/W/50

FOREIGN OFFICE

17th December 1919.

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

Sir:-

With reference to the negotiations with the representatives of the Italian Government conducted by Lord Milner in Paris last summer, I am directed by Earl Curzon of Kedleston to transmit copy of a telegram No. 1656 from Lord Allenby and of our reply thereto No. 1328 of 11th of December.

Lord Curzon desires me to draw the attention of the Colonial Office to the fact that His Majesty's Government is not entitled to conclude with Italy any transaction involving the cession of Egyptian territory without the consent of the Egyptian Government and it is essential that this aspect of the question should not be lost sight of whenever the time comes to resume the negotiations which for the time being are suspended.

I am,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble Servant.

Gerald Spicer

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

EGYPT.

POLITICAL.

Decypher, Lord Allenby (Cairo) December 2nd, 1919.

D. 10.55 p.m. December 2nd, 1919.

E. 10.45 p.m. December 7th, 1919.

No. 1656 (R).

.....

Statements have appeared in local Press to the effect that (7 an) agreement has been concluded between Great Britain and Italy in regard to Western frontier of Egypt. I should be glad to know facts as soon as comment has been aroused in native circles.

(8,12 8/4).

(159496/W.50).

POLITICAL.

EGYPT.

Cypher telegram to Lord Allenby, (Cairo),
Foreign Office, December 11th, 1919. 6.15.p.m.
No.1328.

Very Confidential.

Your telegram No.1656.

No agreement with Italy has been concluded with
regard to Cyrenaica frontier and negotiations on the
subject are at present suspended.

Eventual adjustment of this frontier in order to
secure for Egypt sufficient elbow room in neighbour-
hood of Sollum may involve cession to Italy of Mofa
with frontier to South of this point following latitude
34 degrees thirty minutes as far as longitude 19 de-
grees thirty North but it is not proposed to make any
definite arrangement with Italians except as part of
a general settlement affecting frontiers and spheres
of influence in Asia, Africa, and Adriatic.

Any such adjustment must involve recognition by
Italy of British Protectorate as well as formal consent
of Egyptian Government in order that His Majesty's
Government may possess title to conclude transaction
with Italy over Egyptian territory.

Show to Lord Milner.

159496/W/50.

FOREIGN OFFICE,

17th December 1919.

Sir:-

With reference to the negotiations with the representatives of the Italian Government conducted by Lord Milner in Paris last summer, I am directed by Earl Curzon of Kedleston to transmit copy of a telegram No. 1656 from Lord Allenby and of our reply thereto No. 1328 of 11th of December.

Lord Curzon desires me to draw the attention of the Colonial Office to the fact that His Majesty's Government is not entitled to conclude with Italy any transaction involving the cession of Egyptian territory without the consent of the Egyptian Government and it is essential that this aspect of the question should not be lost sight of whenever the time comes to resume the negotiations which for the time being are suspended.

I am,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble servant.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

EGYPT.

POLITICAL.

Decypher. Lord Allenby (Cairo) December 2nd, 1919.

D. 10.55 p.m. December 2nd, 1919.

13.45 p.m. December 7th, 1919.

No. 1656 (R).

.....

Statements have appeared in local Press to the effect that (an) agreement has been concluded between Great Britain and Italy in regard to Western Frontier of Egypt. I should be glad to know facts as some comment has been aroused in native circles.

(159498/W.30).

POLITICAL.

EGYPT.

Cypher telegram to Lord Balfour, (Cairo),
Foreign Office, December 11th, 1919. 6.15.p.m.
No. 1678.

Very confidential.

Your telegram No. 1656.

No agreement with Italy has been concluded with regard to Cyrenaica frontier and negotiations on the subject are at present suspended.

Eventual adjustment of this frontier in order to secure for Egypt sufficient elbow room in neighbourhood of Egyptian Italy involve cession to Italy of Mediterranean frontier to South of this point following latitude 24 degrees thirty minutes as far as longitude 19 degrees thirty North but it is not proposed to make any definite arrangement with Italians except as part of a general settlement affecting frontiers and spheres of influence in Asia, Africa, and Adriatic.

Any such adjustment must involve recognition by Italy of British Protectorate as well as formal consent of Egyptian Government in order that His Majesty's Government may possess title to conclude transaction with Italy over Egyptian territory.

Show to Lord Balfour.