

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 20900 /1915

and address—

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

25

9120

FIG. 1815

Reference to previous correspondence: — 93

Letter to ~~from~~ Foreign Office: January 14, No. 11798/15

30
11/19/15

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 for Foreign Affairs to transmit the accompanying copy of a despatch which has been received from H. M.

No 58
February 19/1915

Ambassador at Rome concerning the Stalo-Britannic Convention of Korumage

The Secretary of State would be glad to be advised what answer should be returned to Sir R. Rodd.

Foreign Office.

February 23, 1915.

(Similar letter sent to

2000
 1915
 Rome.

February 19 1915

No 58.

Sir,

As a result of recent telegraphic correspondence on the subject of the convention of January 13 1905 between Great Britain and Italy for the lease of certain regions in the neighbourhood of Kisimayu to the Italian Government, His Majesty's Government have been good enough to extend for one year the period of ten years during which the Italian Government were bound to carry out certain public works in order to entitle them to an extension of the lease from 33 to 66 or 99 years.

The Italian Government have now asked me to submit for the favourable consideration of His Majesty's Government a further small concession which they desire to obtain.

The godowns or warehouses which they have to construct were according to the terms of the above-mentioned instrument to be within the limits of the leased area. Experience however has shown that if the godowns are placed there it would be necessary to make a deep and expensive cutting in order to link them up with the landing place. They therefore desire to be allowed to construct these warehouses on the shore in the vicinity of the landing mole, and ask that if this be conceded the sums which shall be expended on construction shall be allowed rank for the effects and purposes of Article IV of the convention, entitling them to a prolongation of lease, as if the warehouses had actual-

in fulfilment of a plot of land conceded by Article I of
 the Convention of 1905
 Sir E. Grey
 R. G. M. N.
 I have the honor to be, Sir, with
 very truly yours,
 R. G. M. N.

actually been constructed on the plot of land conceded by article 1. of the Convention.

I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy and translation of a Note Verbale explaining this proposal in detail, together with two plans illustrating the relative positions of the mole, the proposed site of the warehouses and the plot of land conceded by lease.

So far as I am able to judge the request seems a reasonable one, and I can see no reason for refusing to accede to a proposal which will ~~cost~~ the Italians considerable expense. I have therefore the honor to invite favourable consideration for it. Since the present Governor Senator de Martigny has been in Italian Somaliland he has, I gather, maintained very cordial relations with the British administration in Jubaland, and it appears to be desirable to encourage such relations by rendering such neighbourly service as can properly be conceded.

It may however not be possible for His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies to decide the small point in question without reference to the Governor of British East Africa in order to ascertain whether any objection would be preferred locally to the proposal. In that case, as time presses, seeing that the work has to be carried out within the current year, I would submit that if, subject to local approval, the Secretary of State would give it his support, the matter might be dealt with directly between the Governor of British East Africa or his Delegate and the Governor of Italian Somaliland.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

sd/ R. Rodd.

Note Verbale

Articles I and IV of the Italo-Britannic Convention of January 13 1903, respecting the leasing to the Italian Government of territories in the neighbourhood of Khisimayu, establish the following:

Article I. "His Britannic Majesty's Government leases to the Italian Government a piece of territory on the Eastern side of Khisimayu in the British Protectorate of East Africa not exceeding 150 yards on either side, for the construction of a general warehouse and other necessary buildings. His Britannic Majesty's Government likewise leases to the Italian Government a piece of the shore of the tongue of land to the South east of the existing English wharf at Khisimayu for the construction of a landing-place for the use of the Italian Government, and, at the same time, accords the right of passage from the above-mentioned landing-place to the aforesaid warehouses and from these latter to a point on the river Juba opposite Jumbo."

Article IV. "The lease shall hold good for thirty three years from the present date (January 13 1903) but if the Italian Government prove in a satisfactory manner to the British Government that the expenses incurred during the first ten years following on this date (up to January 13 1913) in the construction of the said landing place and buildings, shall continue to hold good for sixty six years, or for ninety nine years, if the sum expended shall have exceeded ten thousand pounds.

The Italian Government, in the course of the first ten years of the lease, caused a scheme to be drawn up for the construction of the landing-place and the warehouses, whence

it became evident that there existed no difficulty as regards the construction of the landing-place carried out by day labourers whereas in the case of the warehouses, if they were to be constructed within the limits of the land taken on lease, the expense of connecting them with the landing place by means of a road would be excessive, inasmuch as the expenditure involved in making a cutting would, in itself, amount to 20,000 rupees. Thus it seemed more convenient to erect two large sheds to serve as warehouses on the shore in the vicinity of the landing-places.

With regard to the construction of the landing-place, the Italian Government undertook at once the necessary works, which are now being carried out.

But with regard to the warehouse, the Italian Government now request the British Government:

1. to authorise the construction of two large sheds on the shore in the vicinity of the landing place, instead of on the land that has been already leased.
 2. to regard the expenses incurred in the construction of such sheds and their accessories as having been incurred on the land held in lease, for the effects and purposes contemplated by the above mentioned Article IV of the Italo-Britannic Convention of January 13 1908.
-

FO 9/26/1915 E.A.P.

~~Let~~

2 March 1915

mod 28445

DRAFT

E.A.P.
No. 135

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No 40 of the 15th of Jan'y, I have the honour to ~~inform you that~~ transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the FO, ~~and the~~ with its enclosures, on the subje^t of the lease of the Kismayu Concession to the Italian Government,

MINUTE.

Mr. Wilson 26/2/15.

Mr. ~~Butcher~~ 29/4/15

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Islington.

Mr. Harcourt.

(79) (1798)

2 March 15

FO. 23 Feb 15
Please in encl

24 Feb

FO

and to inform you
that I shall be
glad to leave it to
you to settle the
matter by direct
communication with
the Governor of Italian
Somaliland

2

(Signed) I. H. ROBERT

FO 9126/1915
EHP 99

2 March 1915

Sir

I am directed by to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter of
the 23rd Febry., no. 20700/1915
and to inform you that
transmit to you for
the inf^y of Secretary
Sir Edward Peay the
accompl^d copy of a
desp. addressed to
the Gov^r of the East
on the subject of the
lease of the Kamayu
Concession to the
Italian Government.

DRAFT

The U.S. of S.
FO

MINUTE.

Mr. Hopper 24/2/1915

Mr. G. Fiddes 27.2.15

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Sir H. Just.

Sir J. Anderson.

Lord Tolington.

Mr. Harcourt.

for (signature)

2 d/6

Copy for 135. 2 March 1915