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KENYA
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RECEIVED
18 JAN 21

FOREIGN

ABYSSINIA

MAGI HURSTON

1921

9th JANUARY

This copy of cables with Addis Ababa approving of solution of question.

Last previous Paper.

2341/21

Mr Bottomley

Satisfactory so far. He can only hope that the news indicated in the last para of Major Dodds' despatch will be justified by results.

Putz

MRS

22.1.21

L.A.S. 22.1.21

Confirmation of document

used as per order to Purby

Next subsequent Paper.

2831/21

Any further communication
subject, please quote

A 5/5/11

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to any person by name.

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

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his
compliments to *The Under Secretary of State
Colonial Offices* and, by direction of the Secretary of State,
transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned papers

Foreign Office,
17th January 1921

Reference to previous correspondence:
*Foreign Office Letter A 9038/674/1
of 7th January*

1228/21

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
<p><u>From</u> Major Dodds (Adis Ababa) Despatch No 152 of 6th December</p> <p><u>To</u> Major Dodds (Adis Ababa) Despatch No 5 of 14th January</p>	<p>Settlement of the Maga Question</p>

Similar letter sent to

December 6th. 1920.

DEAR

My Lord:-

With reference to my despatch No. 141 of the 1st. instant, I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that I was received in audience by His Excellency on Saturday last for a final discussion of the Magi question. I was accompanied by Major Hawkins. His Excellency and Fitzaurari Hapta Giorgis were present.

The Heir Apparent on behalf of the Abyssinian Government announced that, in spite of any difficulties resulting to themselves, they had decided to instruct Dejazmatch Desta as I had requested at the previous audience; and that they proposed to send a representative of the Central Government who would be called a Secretary, with Dejazmatch Desta to Magi, to ensure that the instructions were carried out and to act as intermediary between Major Hawkins and Dejazmatch Desta if necessary.

The His Excellency then asked me if I would undertake, on behalf of my Government, that no taxes would be levied on Abyssinian subjects and no buildings erected on the Sudan side of the red line until a fresh delimitation of the frontier had been made jointly by commissioners appointed by our respective Governments.

The Right Honourable,

The Earl Curzon of Kedleston, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

&c.

&c.

&c.

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Office.

I regretted that I was unable to give any such undertaking as it was neither in keeping with the terms of the Treaty nor was it necessary, as the Sudan Government had no immediate intention of taxing residents living near the border of the Sudan territory, and as far as I knew they had no building programme in contemplation.

When I asked the Ras if the Abyssinian Government were prepared to make a similar undertaking as they had asked of me in respect to the Abyssinian side of the frontier the point was not pursued further.

Dejazmatch Desta was then called.

Ras Tafari in the name of his Government proceeded to instruct him in respect to the limits of his province as defined by Treaty, and told him that he would be supplied with a map, and an explanatory memorandum detailing the different places on the frontier falling in British and Abyssinian territory. (This memorandum was prepared by Major Hawkins from Major Athill's notes written on the spot and was given by me to the Ras.)

The Ras then warned the Dejazmatch as to his behaviour and gave him the most explicit orders that the frontier line was to be respected and that no one single Abyssinian was to be allowed to cross that frontier on any pretext whatsoever. He then adjured the Dejazmatch to work with Major Hawkins in the interests of both countries. He ordered him to build a suitable Consulate for Major Hawkins' use and told him to give him every other assistance in his power.

After I had expressed entire satisfaction with these instructions

instructions I took the opportunity to remind Dejazmatch Desta, and the representatives of the Central Government present, that he had been detained at Adis Abeba at the express desire of His Majesty's Government, but that now matters had been arranged satisfactorily, it was by the express wish of His Majesty's Government that he was returning to Magi, and I expressed confidence in the Dejazmatch to work together with Major Hawkins for the prosperity of the Magi province.

Thus the matter was settled.

I did not deem the moment opportune to pursue the question of a re-delimitation.

In principle the Kesse and the Fitaurari accepted a re-delimitation and suggested that we should discuss the project further at a future meeting. In the course of preceding discussions Fitaurari Hapta Giorgis backed by Ras Kesse had remarked that a re-delimitation by Commissioners appointed by our respective Governments was obviously necessary; and he expressed naïvely a hope that His Majesty's Government would then see their way to conceding a certain portion of that country which the Abyssinians had become to regard as belonging to them and which I had now taken away from them.

I seized this opportunity to remind the Central Government that they had, so far, not paid any compensation whatsoever for Captain Aylmer's murder and other outrages committed in British territory, and that any compensation as suggested by the Fitaurari was due from and not to the Abyssinian Government.

I propose to deal with this question more fully in a separate despatch.

Major

Major Hawkins will be leaving Adis Ababa in about ten days time. As I consider it will assist him very considerably to meet and discuss frontier matters with Captain Hudson, His Majesty's Consul in Southern Abyssinia, I am asking the Central Government to allow him to proceed via Gerdale. This request will probably be granted.

Dajamatch Desta will, in all probability leave Adis Ababa in six weeks' time. This will give Major Hawkins an opportunity to visit the Borsam, and will permit of his arrival at Magi to coincide with that of Dajamatch Desta.

I trust that the solution of the Magi question as detailed in this and my previous despatches will meet with Your Lordship's approval.

A settlement has been fraught with many difficulties.

The Abyssinian Government, for reasons I have explained, were reluctant to recognise the frontier, or to accept the appointment of a Consul or Frontier Agent.

As Your Lordship is aware it was originally intended to demand:-

- i. The instant dismissal of Fitaurari Desta.
- ii. The official recognition of the Frontiers.
- iii. The acceptance of a frontier agent.

In view of the circumstances, viz. (i) that we wish to attain to a rectification of the East African Protectorate frontier in order to ensure a workable basis for our own administration and (ii) that we have no wish to enforce a demand that must inevitably be met by a refusal, I have judged it wiser to meet the requirements of the situation, and at the same time to retain the goodwill of the Abyssinian Government, by measures of coercion rather than by an imperative demand.

In respect to the recognition of the frontier and the acceptance of Major Hawkins as Consul, the Abyssinian Government have acquiesced, but to attempt to achieve the dismissal or even removal of Dejazmatch Desta has, I think, been proved an impracticable policy attended by but doubtful advantages.

He now returns to Magi, by our leave, and he does so without any loss accruing to British prestige. On the contrary I am inclined to think that results will prove that British interests will be best served by his return rather than his dismissal.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient

humble servant,

Signed J.H. Dodds.

No. 2.
(A 1/11)

Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

14th January, 1901.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 122 of 6th December regarding upon the final discussion between you and the Argentine Government on the flag question, I have to inform you that I approve in general the action taken by you in this matter and consider that the solution arrived at is as satisfactory as could be the circumstances be expected.

I am with great truth,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(For the Secretary of State).

Richard H. J. Seymour

H. D. S. S.

etc. etc.