

of a letter from the P.O.
which will explain
why the telegram
the ~~reasons~~
was sent.
this action



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FEB 2 1912

Telegram
Date.
1912
Feb.
previous Paper.
12091
3494
Soma
Part of
subsequent Paper
17169/12

Affairs in Abyssinia

Sends copy of Addis Ababa reporting on
present political situation, & work of
Benadi Boundary Commis.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Part of?

2/13.

Feb. 3.

at once.

H. J. R.

7/12

See also
2/12

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 3782 / 1912.

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



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FEB 2 1912

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents
his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for *the*
Colonies and, by direction of the Secretary of
State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
February 1, 1912.

Reference to previous letter:

Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Major Douglas Wylie, No. 1. January 3. 1912.	Political Situation in Abyssinia, and Boundary Commission in the Benadir

(Similar letter sent to

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British Legation
Adis Ababa
3782
3 January 1912
27 JAN 1912

86

Sir

With reference to the political situation and in continuation of my despatch No. 97 of the 19 December:-
I have the honour to report that Ras Abata arrived here on the 29 December, with a small following. He went to the house of Ras Mikail and was arrested and placed in chains.

He seems to have demanded a trial, which was refused. It was decided to send him to Magdala under the escort of Ras Mikail himself. They started yesterday, Ras Abata in chains, followed by a weeping crowd.

It seems that though Ras Abata has many sympathisers, none of them had sufficient courage to stand by him. His reported intention to fly to the British border is credited here, where his imprisonment is ascribed partly to this reason.

Ras Abata is not likely I think to come to any harm. When duly submissive, he will be a useful man in his turn to dispossess some other discontented chief.

His surrender and imprisonment are an undoubted triumph for Lij Yasu, whose peaceful succession no one now at liberty seems likely to dispute. The departure of Ras Mikail however leaves Lij Yasu free to do as he will, no other Ras having much influence over him.

At present it is nearly impossible to do any business with the Abyssinian Government, such as it is. They are all preoccupied with their own intrigues, and none will take any responsibility without Lij Yasu's approval. Lij Yasu himself will attend to little business.

Edward Grey Bart. M.P.
etc etc etc

2. The departure of Ras Mikail has been the signal for the sending to their country of the troops of Ras Demisie. Several thousands are said to have left already. The fewer the soldiers, the lower the market prices, and the less risk of uncomfortable demands on the Treasury.

Dejaz Kassa, the coronation envoy, has received the country of Lasta as well as his ^{grand-}father's country of Sellali. But I hope that he may remain here as councillor of the Government.

3. The Italian Boundary Commission in the Benadir country has finished its work, and the German officer employed on it by the Abyssinian Government has returned to Adis Ababa. I hear that they not only refuse to pay his expenses, but accuse him of improperly favouring the Italians. Their excuse for this insulting behaviour is that one of their own men produced a map different from that of the Baron von Cosnitz, the officer in question. This Abyssinian had never I believe seen a map before starting on the Commission, but he has now made a very popular one. On any future boundary Commission this ingenious draftsman is likely to be employed with probably similar results. His only stock in trade is to make what he is pleased to call his map differ from that of the Europeans.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

with the highest respect,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

Arthur S. Wright