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Foreign Office

1913

31 Dec

Last previous Paper

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2/13-14

Affairs in Abyssinia

Sends dep. to Adis Ababa reporting return of
Leg Jacq. & on resumed removal of mission
of Abyssinia for later

Dr. J. Anderson

I circulated earlier & by the
paper relating to Mr. Thompson's mission
with the Council with ref. to the
Southern frontier

Put by?

H. J. R.

~~Mr. G. H.~~ 4/1/14

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Subsequent Paper

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603/14

In any further communication of this subject, please quote

N. 57096/13
and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

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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

December 31 1913

Reference to previous letter

Description of Inclosure

Name and Date.	Subject
<p>Mr. Theisiger (Adm. Abeba) November 27</p>	<p>Return of Lt. Yasu and renewed invasion scare</p>

P (Similar letter sent to

BRITISH LEGATION.

ADIS ABABA.

November 27. 1913.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that Lej Yasu returned to Adis Ababa on the 16th and after a week's feasting has now begun to do business.

Shortly after his return the town was again disturbed by fresh rumours of invasion from the Sudan, which were caused by the circulation of an article from the Greek newspaper, the "Omonia", published in Alexandria, a translation of which is enclosed herewith. The last ten words of the article appear to have been somewhat generally omitted from the version which was spread through the town and it was said that Lej Yasu contemplated leaving at once for the West.

Taken in connection with the forthcoming discussion on the Southern frontier, which is to begin on the 29th, it was of course said that H.M.'s Government were preparing to enforce their demands by arms and a good deal of excitement was evident in the town.

I had an audience with Lej Yasu yesterday and represented to him the absurdity of those reports, which had been

The Right Honourable

Sir Edward Grey, Bart. M.P.

etc. etc. etc.

had been

so far credited that a special meeting of the Council had been held previously to discuss them, and I told him that H.M.'s Government had no intention of making war on Abyssinia over the Southern Frontier, grave as that question was, but that he must realize that in the event of the Government refusing the just and moderate demands which we were putting forward they would altogether destroy the feelings of sympathy and friendship which now existed in England for his country.

I also dealt with other rumours of a similar kind - among them one which I know has been received and circulated by the German Minister to the effect that the Sudan was supplying rifles and guns to Ras Wolda Giorgis with the idea of establishing him as a rival to Lej Yasu.

I believe I was able to convince Lej Yasu of the truth of what I said and next Saturday's meeting should open free from any element of fictitious excitement.

The Fitaurari Hapta Giorgis is also reported to be leaving for the Southern Frontier, but he is altogether unfit for such a journey and I trust this order may be cancelled, as his presence here is absolutely essential in the best interests of the country, since he alone is looked up to by all parties and in his absence the various factions will have a free field for intrigues of all kinds.

To return however to the article in the "Omonia", I think it is more than probable that it had its origin here in Addis Ababa and was sent with the deliberate intention of making mischief, as I ^{believe} cannot that the springing up of these rumours of invasion, whenever the Legation has some more important discussion than usual on hand with the Government, is merely a coincidence, and it would be of great service if steps could be taken to obtain from the Editor of this paper the source of his information, so that it could be disclosed here.

I am addressing a copy of this ~~computer~~ to Lord
Kitchener.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
with the highest respect,
Your most obedient,
humble servant,

W. G. M. Thompson

Translation of extract from the newspaper "Omonia"
Political and Commercial Journal, Alexandria.

10 October 1913. No. 229.

It appears among English Circles in Cairo, that an Anglo-Egyptian expedition against Abyssinia is necessary for the purpose of assuring the peace of the Sudan.

Since Menelik has established a manufactory for Arms at Adis Ababa the smuggling of Arms into the Sudan has begun. If the smuggling of Arms is not checked all the natives of the Sudan will gradually become armed. This would interfere with the stability of the country and the conditions would tend to become worse day by day.

Of course the great difficulty of such an expedition against a state which can put 100,000 well armed men into the field has not been underestimated. It is thought however in Cairo that a force of 50,000 Anglo-Egyptian troops directed by Lord Kitchener would be sufficient to ensure the success of the expedition, preparations for which should be immediately commenced so as to be ready in a few years time.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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END

TOTAL EXPOSURES →