

1911

EAST AFR. PROT.

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SOUTHERN FRONTIER OF ABESSINIA

The copy of telegraphic correspondence with Mr. Theodor is a pecuniary settlement of the boundary question. Mr. Theodor might sound Fitaurari Hapta Giorgis unofficially in such a manner as to lead the Abyssinians to think that it is his own idea. Asks for views on Mr. Theodor's proposals re frontier to the East Shore of Rudolf's Lake.

W. Todd

As also $\frac{70}{198}$ - $\frac{70}{163}$. You will see from the latter paper that the situation was very difficult one. Sir P. Richard's mission to avoid complications with the Abyssinians would surely amount to the payment of a moderate sum annually to the Abyssinians for a fixed period of say 10 years, with an expenditure for the same period on being by the completion of their lakes to one side of the frontier. I think however, that it would be a mistake to make the

the offer to the Aborigines unless we
were morally certain that they would
accept it. I discussed the matter with
the P.O. yesterday & with Mr. P. [unclear] & by
the general feeling is that the best
plan will be to mark land ^{we} want
for ~~Aborigines~~ ^{we} therefore who is expected
to the country before the formation
of the 20. think that things will not
fall right eventually if we do not take
a high land with the Aborigines in
view they suggest that we should instead
to occupy the country
our position appears up to the
red line only as described in the
Agreement of 1907 (i.e. Capt. [unclear]
line) instead of [unclear] line
[unclear] 1163, 1907, & other [unclear] say that
Mr. Harcourt thinks that the best
plan will be to leave the whole
question of aboriginals until it can
be discussed personally with Mr. Thompson
who it is understood is due for leave
in 3 or 4 months - that if Mr. S. [unclear]
consents to the view, it is proposed

to instruct the ~~S.A.P.~~ of the S.A.P.
by tel. ^(direct the frontier officers to) to occupy the territory up
to Cape Mandu line only + on no
account to abandon Fort Harrington
- In fact, if they are compelled by
any serious raids from the Abyssinian
side to occupy more frontier line, to
do what they can not to accentuate
the situation - + copy of unexp. ^{to the}
O.S.P. in Conf. J.T.

Should it be eventually decided to
pay the Abyssinians a certain sum for a
definite period - as to what the Terms?
would of course have to be consulted -
it should be made a part of the
bargain that the Abyssinians will
not put obstacles in the way of trade
in miles shores from Abyssinia to the
S.A.P. At the present time, they have
checked down the trade.

H. J. R.

1/11

P. H. G.

Very truly
yours

W. J. R.

4.2.11

last
of



FOREIGN OFFICE.

January 31st, 1911.

C/O
3235
1 FEB 11

Sir:-

With reference to the verbal communication made by Mr. Read on the 25th instant in regard to the Southern Frontier of Abyssinia, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit, for the information of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, paraphrase of a telegram despatched on that date to His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa, as well as a paraphrase of the reply received from Mr. Theisiger on the 27th instant.

With respect to the first paragraph of the latter message, Sir E. Grey is inclined to think that the Abyssinian Government might not prove so reluctant as Mr. Theisiger anticipates, to accept a pecuniary settlement of the boundary question, and he is impelled to this belief by the fact that there is a precedent.

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

mediate.
329/11).

Theng
15
Jan 27

(3329/11).



precedent for such a form of settlement in the money payment made by the Italian Government to Abyssinia in connexion with the boundary agreement of May 16th. 1908. In any case Sir E. Gray is of opinion that there would be no harm in Mr. Theisiger sounding the Pittarari Napta Giorgis unofficially, as to the proposed annual money payment, and in such a manner as to lead the Abyssinian Minister to suppose that it was his own idea and not one put forward by His Majesty's Government and Sir Edward therefore proposes, subject to the concurrence of Mr. Harcourt, to send Mr. Theisiger instructions in that sense.

I am further directed to enquire what are the views of His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies on the proposal contained in the last paragraph of Mr. Theisiger's telegram of the 27th instant.

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

W. Langley

129/11).

Paraphrase of Telegram from Sir E. Grey to Mr. Theisiger
dated January 25th, 1911.

A suggestion has been made to the Colonial Office by the Governor of the British East Africa Protectorate that the settlement of the Abyssinian boundary question might be of a pecuniary character, as, for example, by means of the payment of a certain sum of money every year for ten years. The calculation of this sum, which necessarily would have to be a very moderate one, might be based on the loss of revenue from taxation which the Abyssinian Government will incur by accepting Major Gwynn's delimitation of the frontier, as well as from the exigration across the boundary of Boran and other tribes which has recently taken place. The settlements of Boran tribes which have long been established at considerable distances from the frontier, will not, of course, be taken into consideration in forming the estimate.

Without mentioning the matter to the Abyssinian Government do you think that you could suggest a sum

which

which might be expected to satisfy them. The Governor of the British East Africa Protectorate leaves England on Tuesday so that an immediate answer is required to this telegram.

Paraphrase of Telegram to Mr. Theodiger, D. 27th. January
R. 28th.
1911.

Abyssinian Frontier Negotiations.

Fear Government in office would not face risk of unpopularity sale of territory would involve. I think that £1,000 per annum would be the lowest possible offer. However I would suggest their being approached in the matter.

Would Governor of British East Africa agree to the frontier to the East shore of Rudolph Lake suggested in my Despatch No. 62.

70 / 3235 Cal
LSC

Immediate

DRAFT

U. S. G. S.
TO

Quadr. 5123

MINUTE

7 Feb. 1911

- Mr. Fiskerson 7/2
- Mr. Baker 7/5
- Mr. Fisher
- Mr. Tuck
- Mr. Cox
- Mr. C. Lewis
- Col. Sully
- Mr. Harcourt

has received by Mr. Sec. Hancock
 to call to receipt of your letters
 of the 12th, 20th & 21st of January,
 numbered 47101/10, 1388/11,
 and 3329/11 respectively,

on the subject of the Southern
 frontier of Abyssinia, & to
 request you to inform Sec. Fish
 of Grey that he ^{is of} ~~thinks~~ ^{thinks} ~~feels~~
 that the best plan will be
 to have the whole question in
 abeyance until it can be
 discussed personally with
 him.

below yesterday
 22/2/11
 of 27/2/11 (7/6)
 of 22/2/11 with
 copies of this
 of 22/2/11
 of 27/2/11

Mr. Theissen, who,
it is understood, is
due for leave in
or four months.

2. If Sir S. Grey concurs
in this view, it is proposed
to instruct the O.C. to
the Col. by telegraph
to direct the routes of
troops to the Army
up to major's hands
but only on account
to a band of

arrangement and further,
they are compelled by very
serious raids from the
Abyssinian side

to occupy major's quarters
but in the event they
can not be
the situation

[Handwritten signature]