

1911

EAST AFR. PROT  
UGANDA

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Si P.

~~1957~~

In previous Paper.

Mr. Harcourt

See also proposed on 4-36

The immediate action is to dispose of the robes. The greater demand is for the district work force to stand by.

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Q 17-11

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1028

## COLONIAL OFFICE,

L O N D O N .

22 January 1911.

With reference to the telegram referred from the  
Administrator of Uganda dated  
1 January 1911 on the subject of the Arval Mission,  
I shall be glad to explain the whole matter of af-  
fairs.

In July last I was informed at the  
Turkana tribes had submitted to the Government and  
that their admixture of the Somalis would not be  
difficult matter. This was not raised  
in Uganda by the native tribes in the Uganda  
but particularly the Suri and Karijino.  
The result of the Uganda rebellion was  
as known to me that the  
was initiated by the  
native administration and army under  
the command of the  
Uganda tribes.  
In the same year the regulations have  
been put into effect by the Government. On the  
other hand, in the Rudolph Province, administered  
and the bulk of the Nile Province, is still  
unadministered. The condition of the last  
is practically no effect upon British East Africa,  
but the unadministered condition of the Rudolph Prov-  
ince is quite another matter.

In

The Under Secretary of State

for the Colonies. L O N D O N .

In the North, to the west of Lake Rudolph, I understand that several white traders have established "salarias" from whence they raid elephants in all directions, and in the Southern part the native tribes in an area as between the Turkwal and a line drawn from the centre of Mt. Elgon due north, are a menace to our more or less settled natives of the East Africa Protectorate.

In consequence of this I addressed a letter to the Acting Governor of the Uganda Protectorate, in August 1910, pointing out the state of affairs and the fact that no doubt the Suk of Uganda were closely allied with the Suk in the East Africa Protectorate, and that if the Government of Uganda were unable - owing to paucity of staff - to undertake the active administration of the Suk, would they be prepared to consider the temporary diversion of the boundary between the two Protectorates in order that I might be empowered to deal with the Suk who were carrying out raids against our tribes.

In reply the Acting Governor stated that the country East, to a line drawn from the centre of Mount Elgon due north, was not administered by the government of his Protectorate, and that he would be glad to know how much country I was prepared to administer if it was found possible to accede to the request contained in the Despatch under reply.

Almost immediately afterwards a very serious raid took place on our Turkana by the Uganda tribes. The Turkana went in for reprisals, which we were unable to control, and were somewhat inclined to taunt both our District Commissioner stationed on the Turkwal and the troops, with their inability to deal with the situation.

As there was some danger of our relations with the Turkana becoming strained, I at once asked the Acting Governor of Uganda whether he would allow our men to pass through his country. His reply was that no body of men could go through Uganda by peaceful methods. He said he had no objection to our men passing through his country if we gave him full guarantee that they would not commit any acts of violence and that we would not interfere with his native force.

The Acting Governor's proposal was accepted. We were told that the Acting Governor had been very anxious to see us and had given us every facility. He said that the roads and frontier posts to the north were absolutely impassable. He also said that the Germans were unable to supply us with any food or other articles by the shortest route. We were told that we must take the long route via Nairobi. We were told that from a telegram received from Nairobi it would appear that the road to Nairobi was in a bad condition. But the Acting Governor said that the Turkana is indeed a very hospitable people from the point of view of climate and supplies, and we have found no difficulty in maintaining 75 men on the Turkana. I cannot therefore understand the Acting Governor's remarks with regard to the impossibility of proceeding by this route. In his telegram he states that supplies for the Mission sent by the route originally proposed, via Mbale, and presumably from that place on December 8th, reached

the Turkwell in 15 days, met with no opposition and only a few peaceable natives. If I had had any idea that this route was so safe and easily provided with food, my opinion might have been a different one on a suggestion as to the route for advance. At the same time I cannot fail to be struck with the fact that if this country can be so easily penetrated, it is highly desirable in the interests of peace and order upon our borders that it should be at once administered from Mbale.

I have no desire whatever to take over any portion of Uganda territory, as our staff at present is only too small for the work in hand. I would suggest that the Uganda Government, who are already fully established at Mbale, should now administer their country up to the Turkwell River. It seems very little to ask of this Government, considering the various areas which have been recently placed under the Administration in British East Africa.

There would appear to be no doubt whatever, from Mr. Tomkins' telegram, that the country should be looked after by their own officers.

It has been pointed out by my legal advisers that it would be quite impossible for the Government of the East Africa Protectorate to legally assume any administration unless the boundaries were definitely changed - a course which I am not prepared to advocate.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

