

EAST AFR. PROT.

26964

31 AUG 1910

230

26964

Albyssinian Frontiers

Extracts from Sir P. Gyrouard's Report on visit to  
Coast Provinces (Apr. 20/10). Telegraphical replies received

Mr. Fisher

see also Rv  
26908

We see it a disadvantage in dealing  
with the military question, in the  
absence of the J.G. of the K.A.R.  
I think that the best plan will be  
to send the paper to the first instance  
to keep Chamberlain for any time  
which he may have to offer.

I know that Capt. Salkeld, who has  
an unvalued knowledge of the political  
situation, was in favour of the  
completion of reports.

Report to the Chamberlain on 4/10

1910

6 Aug.

Government Paper.

26908

Copy 20.11.13 Oct. 29.02  
Used for can 13 Oct.  
6/10 off 2nd 3 Nov. 1902

12  
London  
18th May 1879

Major Chancellor

My dear Sir

I am sure you will be glad again  
today as I was informed  
that Major Chancellor's substitute  
was this day ~~arrived~~ Barber

Lieut Barber says me up  
this afternoon stating that he  
was in no way competent to  
express an opinion that  
Major Chancellor was not due  
back till middle of October  
although he might look in  
at end of this week

In the event I should have  
to return the papers here at once  
All yrs

Yours  
Edwards

I do not think that we should be justified in  
waiting for <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ Chancellor until the middle of October,  
as the Governor asks for telegraphic approval of the

occupation of Afmadu.

It is a pity that we have not Colonel Theiger to advise us at the present juncture, in view of the strong position taken up by him on Gov/13834 with regard to the increasing military responsibilities of the Protectorate.

The Minutes on Gov/13834; Gov/26408; Gov/26964; and F.O./29402 should be read together. There are really three or four separate questions involved.

(1) In our despatch of the 2nd of June on 13834 it was intimated to the Governor that the Secretary of State was not quite happy about the position of the small military detachments on the Abyssinian frontier, and he was requested to forward a scheme showing how he would propose to support and maintain those posts in the event of trouble arising. Such a scheme is furnished by Lieutenant-Colonel Ellwellyn, the Officer Commanding the troops in the East Africa Protectorate, as the first enclosure in Gov/26408. In forwarding this scheme the Governor remarks that he does not think that there is any reason to anticipate trouble on the boundary either from the Abyssinian, or from the frontier tribes, but that he quite agrees that it is necessary to be prepared for any contingency, and that Lieut. Colonel Ellwellyn's scheme will provide for any sudden change in the situation demanding military reinforcements. I do not see that we have any grounds for questioning this deliberately expressed opinion, ~~and the question of the safety of the present detachments, and therefore the proposed~~  
~~at all.~~

(2) The Governor now asks for telegraphic approval of the occupation of Afmadu, the central and most important station amongst the Jubaland Somalis. In our despatch of

the

the 2nd of June on Gov/20750/09, the Governor was requested to furnish his report on the situation in Jubaland, and was given to understand that no forward movement was to be made until the Secretary of State had received and considered that report. He was reminded that hitherto Jubaland has been looked upon as the danger spot in East Africa, and that it was for this reason that a strikingly ~~large~~ force was kept ready ~~to deal with any sudden emergency~~. In Gov/26964 Sir Percy Girouard ~~reminds~~ <sup>reminds</sup> us that the centre of the Somali ~~land~~ country is Afmadu and that it has been constantly urged by all who know the problem best that its occupation would ensure the peace of the whole of the Somali tribes. He observes that the Camel Company in proceeding to Moyale and the frontier has had to go through Afmadu and that it is probable that both the victualling and the relief of the posts on the frontier will have to be carried out from the Juba via Afmadu and El Wak. He says that the Somali Chiefs themselves have asked that we should occupy Afmadu and that he thinks that in the interests of all concerned this should be done at the earliest possible moment. He therefore begs for telegraphic approval of this movement.

It is to be gathered that he expects to be able to carry out this occupation without any special military expedition, simply by going there with a Company or so of troops and sitting down. This is a very different prospect from that which we have hitherto had in view in considering a forward movement in Jubaland. It has hitherto been supposed that a force of 2,000 men might be required, and the late Inspector-General of the King's African Rifles,

Colonel

Colonel Cough, left on record, in ~~Gov~~<sup>24</sup>/33166/09, an elaborate scheme of operations for carrying out the movement. It is evident that Sir Percy Girouard and his officers, including Captain Salkeld, the experienced Provincial Commissioner of Jubaland, have gone into the whole question very thoroughly, and I do not know how it is possible for us to question this deliberately expressed opinion that Afmadu should now be occupied. On the last page of his report in Gov/26048, Mr Hope, the Officer in charge of the New North Frontier District, says that he expects that when Afmadu is occupied he may have some slight trouble with some of young Ogaden men who will probably try to settle in the neighbourhood of the ~~Lower~~ Swamp in order to keep away from the vicinity of a Government Station. If this is all the trouble to be expected I think it may be faced.

It is not clear however, how far the occupation of Afmadu is inseparable from question No. (5), namely the distribution of troops along the frontier.

In Gov/26964, Sir Percy Girouard proposes to place the whole of one battalion along the Juba and the northern frontier at Afmadu, Serohli, Dolo, possibly Jara, Moyale and Marasbit. See the accompanying map on which most of these places and the others referred to are marked.

There are at present two battalions in the Protectorate, the ~~second~~ consisting of four companies, and the ~~third~~ consisting of six, but the latter furnishes a detachment of two companies stationed at Sandibar. If one battalion in this proposal therefore, the Governor would appear to mean four companies. This would leave four companies for disposal. In this connection it is necessary

to

to refer to paragraphs 13 and 19 of the report of the Committee on Sir Percy Girouard's military proposals, (C.O./24641, print herewith), in which it is stated that the minimum mobile force which should be kept concentrated at Nairobi should consist of not less than four companies, and should be exclusive of any garrison which the Governor may consider it necessary to keep there if the mobile columns were withdrawn. This report was sent to Sir Percy Girouard in our despatch No. 566 of the 13th of September, and he therefore had had no opportunity of considering it when he made the proposal now under consideration. It will be seen that his proposal can only be squared with the opinion expressed by the Committee, if apart from the battalion along the frontier, he required no troops at any place except Nairobi, and was prepared in an emergency to leave Nairobi without a garrison at all.

On the 21st of September, he telegraphed to the Secretary of State, and two and three days later telegraphed that, in view of the Governor's strong representations on the subject, the Secretary of State is prepared to agree to the occupation of Afmashene, on the assumption that no trouble is anticipated, and that any trouble likely to arise can be met by the force already at the Governor's disposal in the Protectorate; that, as to the distribution of the battalions along the frontier, he will be glad if the Governor would consider the report enclosed in our despatch No. 566 of the 13th of September; and especially the considerations stated in paragraphs 13, 14 and 19 of that report, and that, if the proposed disposition could be reconciled with those considerations, it may be carried out as soon as possible.

232A  
the Governor thinks advisable, but that, if it conflicts with these considerations, the Secretary of State would be glad to receive his views by despatch on the subject before the altered distribution comes into effect, unless in the Governor's opinion the political situation would be seriously compromised by such delay. This telegram should be confirmed by despatch and the Governor should then be asked to report, also, on the additional expense which will be involved by keeping a large number of troops at stations so remote.

(4) The fourth question raised by these despatches is that of the Merahan, a tribe occupying roughly the angle between the river Juba on the east and the river Baka on the north. The correspondence is full of references to the troublesome nature of these people who are supposed to be polygamists and to have a large number of rifles, apparently stated at 800 to 1,000. Their habit seems to be to attack all the neighbouring tribes as well as against the Government. The surrounding chiefs have represented to Sir Hope that the disarming of the Merahan, if taken in hand now, would not be a very serious matter, but that, if it is left for very long they would eat absolutely out of hand. It is stated that members of them have been with the British, and many more are continually returning home from the Esilah's country. Sir Hope's own opinion is that the disarming of this tribe is the most important question of the district and that once this is done and a permanent garrison is left at Dalo, it would be the case under the distribution proposed by the Governor (see (3) above) that would be kept.







28964

31 AUG 10

is. With reference to the Frontier, I am now in a position to judge more accurately the whole question. Prior to last September the Protectorate Government hardly concerned itself at all with Frontier matters, which were left to the decision of Mr. Zambiro, who took his orders from Adis Abeba and was supported, I believe, by a small body of irregular police. In September last, shortly before my arrival, the Protectorate received instructions from the Secretary of State to relieve Mr. Fochiro, who was about to proceed on leave, and a British Officer, Captain Barrett and a force of 200 men of the King's African Rifles under Captain [redacted] proceeded to Moyale. Since then authority has been granted to organize what is now known as the Northern Frontier District, which comprises today the previously authorized stations of Marsabit and Moyale, and Dolo will probably be opened at a later date. This place Dolo was formerly much frequented by Mr. Zambiro. From all reports I have received I should say that this occupation of our own territory and carrying on the administration through our own officers has had the very best effect. If Mr. Zambiro, a foreigner, with a few irregular and badly armed police, was able to keep nominal peace on the Frontier, I have no fear as to the future with reference



own  
to our administration. It recently became necessary  
to relieve the ca- rison at Koyale, and a camel  
company was sent up not only to effect this  
purpose but to establish a new station at Serenli  
on the Jubu almost opposite Bardera, an Italian  
post.

19. I would not particularly refer to our own  
Somali position. The most important of our Somali  
tribes are the Marehan, Muliha, Mahomed Zubeir,  
Herti and Abulle. Captain Callaid, the Provin-  
cial Commissioner of Jubaland, has been in constant  
touch with all these peoples except the Marehan for  
several years, and has constantly held councils with  
them in Kisumu Isbell. Such a council was arranged  
for on my return from my trip up the Jubu, and  
representatives of all these tribes attended except  
the Marehan. They are a most intelligent body of  
chiefs, who assured me that they had no intention of  
doing anything which would embarrass the Government  
if we, on our side, did not interfere with their  
religion or their cattle, and various small matters,  
in all of which I could acquiesce. The centre of  
the Somali country is Afmau, which has formed the  
subject of much correspondence during the last few  
years, and it has been constantly urged by all who  
know the problem best that its occupation would  
ensure the peace of the whole of the Somali tribes.  
The camel company is proceeding to Koyale and the  
frontier has had to go through Afmau and the whole  
of the Somali country, except Marehan, the necessity  
of this being based on the fact that the river roads  
are infested with tsetse fly. There is little doubt

that

that we shall have in a measure to fall back upon  
 Cocha country for providing the grain, &c. necessary  
 on the frontier and that both the victualling and  
 relief of the posts will in all probability be  
 carried out along this route via Afadu and 27 Feb.  
 The Rasali chiefs themselves stated that we should  
 occupy Afadu, and I think therefore that in the  
 interests of all concerned this should be done at  
 the earliest possible moment, and would have to  
 receive telegraphic approval of the same.

So, that I will propose to do it by means of  
 a force of one battalion along the line of the  
 frontier, a scheme which would ensure the continued  
 presence of a senior officer. The garrisons suggested  
 would be Afadu, Serelli, <sup>suggested by Jara,</sup> Kila, Araya and 27 Feb.  
 although the latter would probably have to be  
 stationed there except a body of police or irregulars  
 formed from amongst the Amillo or 27 Feb.  
 dispositions which are being made by the Italian  
 Government will not allow of any incursions from  
 their territory into ours. On the other hand, I find  
 nothing along the Abyssinian boundary as soon as it  
 is settled. The one difficulty now therefore is the  
 Borana and Harsha country, which I have previously  
 mentioned and which I think, as soon as we are well  
 established on the frontier and in Afadu, should be  
 occupied by all three Governments and the boundaries  
 finally determined. I do not think there is any  
 reason to anticipate serious resistance from these  
 people. There has, I think, been far too much  
 readiness to exaggerate the military position along  
 the

(10)

the Juba end in the North. The murder of one  
 officer of Government a few years ago seems to have  
 effected this very largely. I would call to Your  
 Lordship's recollection the fact that the Nigerian  
 Province of Bornu, containing a population of  
 500,000 Kanuri Mohammedans, situated 80 days from  
 effective reinforcements and subject to raids from  
 fanatical French tribes totally unadministered, was  
 garrisoned by 100 mounted infantry and 1000 infantry  
 on a boundary line some 200 miles in length.  
 It would always be the Abyssinian and Italian  
 Governments do their part here. I think the presence  
 of one battalion along the boundary is all that is  
 required, and this opinion is shared by officers  
 of many years' experience. In case of any trouble  
 with the Somali - the only one which might possibly  
 arise - our reinforcements are not so far from  
 20 days away but only about 40 hours distant. I  
 am firmly of opinion that it is only by speeding  
 up Juba and its trade to the perfectly willing  
 Somali that we shall find absolute peace and  
 witness their advancement and civilization.

Genl. A.P.  
20904

to per.

Seal  
Crest

675

230

oculiform  
~~oculiform~~

Edw. Jones

hedonism Congress

I have had the

consider a

detention

DRAFT.

Telegram

Ground

Mardi

MINUTE

Mr. Butler Sept 30

Mr.

Mr. Fildes 30

Mr. Galt

Mr. Goe

Sir C. Lucas

Mr. P. Hopwood Feb 20.9

Col. Seely. 10/10

Lord Ouse

we consider what degree  
aptitude

Nov 75

August 1875

and paragraph

and 20

consider what degree  
importance

Nov 75

August 1875

is not intended by

the

total

total

for con son  
See minutes

for despatch

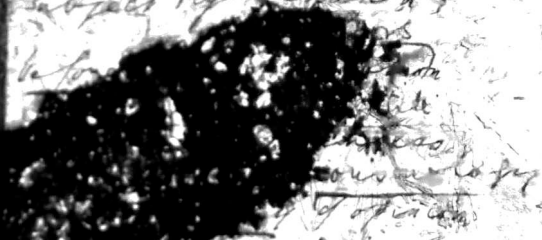


severance

as soon as you think  
advisable, if it conflicts

with these considerations,  
I am very sorry

I should be glad to  
have your views on the  
subject by return of  
post



of the  
of opinion

habitual

promised by such  
delay, I will await

extremely  
results of proposed work

to forward and

redistribution of troops

before considering regulation

of Merchants

I think the  
and better for  
to proceed  
with a view to

Good





giving to your proposals the serious consideration which they demand. I enclose telegrams to you on the 6th of September in the following terms:-

I have had under consideration your confidential despatch No. 75 of 1st August, paragraphs 18, 19 and 20 of your confidential despatch No. 79 of 6th August. I am impressed

by the importance of the measures which you invite me to sanction and their possible consequences, but I have not as yet

carefully weighed all aspects of the question and I must rely on the judgment of you and your officers in this matter.

I am therefore prepared to agree to the occupation of Ahmadu at once, understanding

that you do not anticipate any slight trouble that might arise by forces effecting occupation.

any slight trouble that might arise by forces already at your disposal in the Protectorate.

As to the distribution of troops, I am

I understand four companies, please consider report enclosed in my despatch of 13th September No. 656 especially consideration stated in paragraphs 13, 14, and 16. If distribution proposed by you can be reconciled with those considerations it may be carried out as soon as you think advisable. It is desirable with your views on the subject by despatch before new distribution is carried out. I am of opinion that political situation would be seriously compromised if such a distribution were carried out. I will await results of operations in Ahmadu and redistribution of troops before considering question of Merih.

2. The reference to the battalion which you propose to distribute along the frontier being understood to consist of four companies, is dictated by the fact that it may at any time be arranged that the 2nd battalion,

*shall*

King's African Rifles, ~~should~~ furnish the detachment of two companies stationed at Zanzibar, in which case the stationing of <sup>one</sup> battalion, namely, the 3rd King's African Rifles along the frontier, would apparently involve the utilisation of six companies for this purpose. This would mean that only two companies, namely the two remaining companies of the 2nd battalion, would be ~~readily~~ available to be stationed at Nairobi or elsewhere in the Protectorate. Such a distribution cannot be reconciled with the opinion expressed in the report enclosed in my despatch No. 556 of the 13th September, and it was therefore necessary to guard against the possibility of <sup>yet</sup> supposing that I was prepared at this stage to agree to more than <sup>four companies</sup> ~~the 4th battalion~~ being used for military purposes on the frontier.

I should be glad if, in conveying to me by despatch your views on the points raised

DRAFT.

243

in my telegram, you would also report on the additional expenses which will be involved by maintaining so large a number of troops at stations so remote.

In view of the urgency of the matter and <sup>clear view</sup> ~~of the strength~~ of the opinions expressed by you, I do not feel that the question of expenses can be made a decisive factor in the present connexion, but it is a matter of great importance, and it will be necessary that I should be in a position to explain and justify to the Treasury any increase of military or transport expenditure which may be involved, <sup>and to state in what manner it will be met.</sup>

With reference to the concluding sentence of my telegram, I enclose a copy of correspondence with the Foreign Office relating to the opinion expressed by you that the question of the Merina should be taken up by all the three Governments concerned.

I have, etc.  
(8d.)