

EAST AFR. PROT  
359 67

359  
25 NOV 1910

Foreign  
1910  
See how  
Last previous Paper

Claim of Bond Trading Co

in respect of loss of \$5000 in Abyssinian frontier  
Bond's copy letter addressed to Co stating  
that they first cannot accept responsibility  
for reasons explained

Copy of the S.A.P. for info with  
ref to our dep on 26050 177

at once  
H. J. R.  
25/21

Copy 789. 723. 30 Nov 20

In any further communication about this subject, please quote

No. 41570  
1910

The Under-Secretary of State,  
Foreign Office,  
London.

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 undermentioned paper

Foreign Office

November 26

Foreign Office No 38031 October 20

(View form of following)

To Roma Trading Coy.

Claim of Roma

November 26

Trading Company

(Similar letter sent to)

Copy.

FOREIGN OFFICE.

November 24 1910.

Sir:-

With reference to the letter from your department (38031/10) of the 20th ult. respecting the claim of the Homa Trading Company for the loss of five thousand dollars on the Abyssinian frontier of the British East Africa Protectorate, I am directed by Secretary Sir A. Grey to transmit to you, herewith, copy of a letter addressed on the 7th of September 1909 by Mr. Napier in Fort Harrington to the Agent of the Homa Trading Company at Marsabit, as well as copies of Mr. Napier's reply and of a paper signed by him in the name of the company.

You will observe that Mr. Napier asked the Agent of your company at Marsabit to send an authorised person immediately on the receipt of his letter to Fort Harrington to take over the nine thousand dollars which had just arrived there from Adis Ababa for Captain Mitchell, as well

Secretary

To the Homa Trading Company.

(41570/10)

as the five thousand dollars which had been left there some weeks previously by that gentleman. Mr. Shapiro further stated that he was leaving Fort Harrington shortly for Adis Ababa and could not guarantee the safety of the money during his absence. Mr. Shapiro, apparently, was unable to send a responsible person to receive the money and he accordingly gave Mr. Shapiro a paper in the name of the Foss Trading Company stating that they took full responsibility for the safety of the dollars until their European representative arrived at Fort Harrington to take them over.

It is true that Mr. Shapiro's letter and the document relating to the Foss Trading Company's responsibility only refer to the five thousand dollars, but I want to point out to you that it was no part of Mr. Shapiro's official duty to take charge of the five thousand dollars left by Captain Kiddell in Fort Harrington or of the nine thousand dollars subsequently sent there by the bank of Abyssinia and that if he did undertake to keep the boxes containing

(41970/10).

the five thousand dollars, it was merely in order to  
render Captain Hissell a service. In any case Mr. Zappiro  
made it clear in his letter that he could not guarantee  
during his absence the safety of the money which was con-  
signed to Fort Harrison when he asked the Agent of  
the Company at Marietta to remove both the nine thousand  
dollars and the five thousand dollars.

Mr. Zappiro therefore considers that even if Mr.  
Zappiro had ever incurred any responsibility for the  
safe custody of these contributions of money it would have  
ceased from the moment that his letter of September 7th  
1903 reached the hands of your company's Agent and further  
he is of opinion that by leaving the money at Fort Harrison  
after that date you were obliged to ensure its safe  
custody (thereby not) he considered to have assumed respon-  
sibility for loss thereof in the sum of nine thousand  
dollars as to part of the five thousand dollars in these  
circumstances it is only a Government agent and their  
responsibility, or the responsibility of Mr. Zappiro for

(41570/16)

the loss of any part of the fourteen thousand dollars  
belonging to the Home Trading Company which were left at  
Fort Barrington.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

(Signed) W. Langford