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Commissioner's Office,

Mombasa.

August 25<sup>th</sup> 1905.

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THE AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 465



Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 188 of April 18<sup>th</sup>  
regarding my proposal to occupy Afmadi with a permanent  
garrison, I have the honour to report that in view of  
General Manning's recommendations I have decided to abandon  
the scheme for the present.

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy  
of General Manning's memorandum on the subject.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

J. G. La Gorce

In the absence of H. H. Commissioner

H. Principal Secretary of State

for the Colonies.

Downing Street,

LONDON.

K.A.R.

Endos in no.



Memorandum.

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Advance to and occupation of AFMADU.

ject of such advance.

1. The object of an advance to Afmadu would be to exercise a more immediate control over the Ogaden Somalis, such control being enhanced by the possession of the wells at Afmadu which it is presumed the garrison at Afmadu could deny at will to the Ogaden.

Effectiveness  
the occupa-  
tion of the  
Afmadu wells.

2. The possession of the wells would only be effective in the dry seasons when other watering places were not available, in the wet seasons, the occupation of Afmadu would be of no effect.

The wet seasons in Jubaland seem to vary in intensity and duration and therefore the effectiveness of the occupation of the Afmadu wells varies with the amount of rain.

Policy of  
ance to hold  
Abyssinian  
boundary.

3. Should however the object of an advance to Afmadu be the eventual effective holding of a boundary to Abyssinia, Afmadu is the first step towards this policy.

Such a policy however must contemplate a very considerable increase to the present Jubaland garrison, since Afmadu would be but one of a chain of posts to be eventually established such a policy would have to include the defence of the Ogaden from raids by Abyssinian troops.

Occupation of  
Afmadu in any  
case must con-  
template as-  
sistance to  
Jubaland in  
case of  
Abyssinian  
raids.

4. If however the occupation of Afmadu is meant to obtain a firmer control over the Ogaden, it appears that again the occupation of Afmadu would render the Government responsible for the safety of Ogaden property from Abyssinian raids and in this case there is no assistance whatever but that the Ogaden would claim assistance.

of a detached force which can be sent in no time and  
contact with these Abyssinian raiders must again be con-  
tinued.

5. From the preceding paragraphs it is evident  
that the occupation of Afmudu must contemplate, in addition  
to the more thorough control of the Ogaden, the possibility  
of a contact with Abyssinian troops or raiders, and there-  
fore the duties of the Juba Land garrison would be increased  
by the presence of this factor in the situation.

6. The Officers best qualified to judge at Kismayu  
inform me that the occupation of the Afmudu wells might  
or might not be peaceably received.

They say that the "old men" that is I presume  
the "Akils" or tribal elders desire the occupation of  
Afmudu, but that the young men might object.

This to my mind is sufficient evidence that the  
occupation would not be a peaceable one, for it is always  
the custom of the "old men" of an African tribe to ascribe  
an outbreak of hostilities to their inability to retain the  
young men, though they themselves profess, as is natural,  
the desire for peace.

Is not opportunity offered by the view of the future of Jubaland province at  
the present moment as a trading centre, as a place for  
settlement, or as a place where any lucrative plant

can be established? I am inclined to believe that the  
Africans probably has other reasons for his opposition to  
the occupation of Afmudu, as he is a foreigner and a member of  
the Sultan's party. He is a man of influence and  
should be a good informant. In the event of war  
with Abyssinia, and when necessary, the initiation of  
Jubaland might be taken in hand and troops sent

elsewhere could be utilised to carry through a policy framed with a view to settling once and for all the question of the complete control of the Ogaden and the effective occupation of an Abyssinian Boundary line.

8. For the present I am inclined to recommend that matters remain as they are, offences against law and order on the part of the Ogaden can be very effectively met by the re-imposition of the blockade which so successfully operated from 1902 onwards and ended in the Ogaden paying their fines in full.

At present the Ogaden want peace and give no trouble, the Abyssinian raiders have not so far touched them, and the question of protection from Abyssinian raids has not arisen.

(Sd.) W. H. Manning.

Brigadier-General,

Inspector-General,  
King's African Rifles.

Isinguzi, 31st May 1905.

Com. S.A.R.

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DRAFT.

MINUTE.

Mr. Portman 32 2/0  
Mr. Ellis 111 2/0  
Mr. Antrobus.  
Mr. Cox.  
Mr. Lucas.  
Mr. Graham.  
Sir M. Ommanney.  
The Duke of Marlborough.  
Mr. Lyttelton.

I have the honor to  
ack. the rec't. of your  
despatch no. 465 of the  
23<sup>rd</sup> of August last,  
and to inform you  
that I approve of  
the decision to abandon  
for the present the  
proposal for the  
~~so-called permanent~~  
occupation of Madras.

*R. H. Barlow  
Dipterist*

700-35341