

EAST AFR. PROT.
SOMALILAND

32023

C.O.
2023
SEP 09

Office or Individual

Foreign

1909

23 Sept.

at Previous Paper

Raids by Merhan Shelli Tribes
into Italian Somaliland

Sends for obtain note from Italian Amb.
Complaining of periodical raids, & expressing fears
that raids will be resumed with the drying up of R. Juba.

of copy comes for inf Conf & Mas

W. Fiddes.

See the par. which I have marked (1) in
the printed copy of Major Gwynn's report
in F.O. See also the correspondence in
G 32213. There can be no doubt that raids take
place. We have no sort of administration
on our side of the Juba, or altogether we
haven't got much to say for ourselves. The
only thing I can think of is to suggest to
the F.O. that they might tell the Italians
that the question of the administration
of the frontier will engage the attention

A. & E. W. - 5000/17 -
5000 - 11-02

at subsequent Paper

32213

of the newly appointed Governor of the
E. A. P. (See our de. of 27 August on $\frac{9}{24365}$).

2/13.

Oct. 8.

M. 18

In any further communication on this subject, please quote No. 33540/09.

and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

C.O.
32023
REC'D
SEP 28 1909

9 copies

FOREIGN OFFICE

September 22nd, 1909.

27

367

Sir:-

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to enclose herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, translation of a communication which has been received from the Italian Ambassador complaining of periodical raids by the Merihan Ghelti tribes and expressing fears that these raids will be renewed with the drying up of the River Juba.

*in Ambassador's
Sept 2.*

Sir E. Grey would be glad to be furnished with any observations which the Earl of Crewe has to offer on the subject.

I am to add that references to these raids will be found in Major Gwynn's report respecting the Southern frontier of Abyssinia which is enclosed in the letter from this Department No.28498 of to-day's date.

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

F. J. Campbell

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

*70
32213*

Translation.

(33540)

The Italian Ambassador presents his compliments to Sir E. Grey and is instructed to inform him of the following facts relating to raids made by the Merihan on the territory of Italian Somaliland. The Italian authorities have ascertained that during the dry season the Merihan Ghelti tribes are in the habit of crossing from the right bank of the Giuba, where they live and therefore in British territory, to the left bank in Italian territory and there making numerous periodical raids.

On March 25th last the Merihan Ghelti, having surprised some Malinuin and Rer Dumal at Chiliburga, killed one Rer Dumal and seized 20 head of cattle.

On the 27th of the same month the same Merihan Ghelti raided Cor Robo to the damage of the Malinuin and Listan, killing one slave and seizing cattle.

On April 4th they made another raid at Calib against the Malinuin taking some 30 camels.

On the same day another family of Merihan, the

Hassen

Hassen, performed for the first time hostile acts against the Kivi, a tribe residing on the Italian bank, and seized 22 camels and some 50 head of cattle.

Only the arrival of flood in the river put an end to the exploits of the raiders, who recrossed the Giuba and returned into English territory.

These raids, which cause great inconvenience even when, as in the cases specified, the raiders are made to restore a large part of the booty, were not made this year for the first time, but unfortunately occur periodically and are renewed with the drying up of the Giuba. It is to be feared that as the waters fall the raiders will resume their work with fresh vigour.

Italian Embassy.

September 2nd, 1909.

7.0
32023

E.A.P.

370

~~83c~~

26 Oct. 1909.

DRAFT.

London

The U. S. of B.
Foreign Office.

Sir,

MINUTE.

M. Butler. Oct. 22

Mr. Read. 22

Mr. Fiddes. 23
[Signature]

Mr. Just.

Mr. Cox.

Sir C. Lucas.

Sir F. Hopwood.

Col. Seely.

Lord Crewe.

I am directed
by the Earl of Crewe
to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter N^o
33540 / 09 of the 27th
of Sept^r relating
to a complaint
made by the Italian
Ambassador of
raids made into

Copy of 32023 & this
reply to Govt for info. (72)
of Conf. & Nat.
at 16 also on 3245

Italian territory by
tribes living on the
right bank of the
River Juba within the
E. A. P.

2. In view of the
references in Major
Gwynn's report on
the southern frontier
of Abyssinia, Lord
Crewe fears that it
cannot be denied
that such raids
take place, and he
can only suggest
that the Italian
Govt. should be
informed that the

question of the 371
administration of the
frontier will engage
the attention of the
newly appointed
Govt. of the E. A. P.

3. Director that
this question should
be referred to the
new Govt. after he
had taken up his
duties were sent to
the O. A. G. in a
desp. dated the 27th
of August last

J. J. J.

(Signed) G. V. FIDDEB.