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SITUATION IN NORTHERN TERRITORIES

Two copies of memorandum, describing events, for weeks ending 15th and 22nd

See on 27373

See  
27373  
April 26 1916  
D. O. Army

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EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE  
No. 240

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

April 26th, 1916.

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REC'D  
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Sir,

*402  
22/4/16*

In continuation of my despatch No. 213 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of further memoranda for the weeks ending the 15th and 22nd April summarising the events in connection with the Somali unrest in the Northern territories of the Protectorate.

Memoranda

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

*A. C. G. B. B.*

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
10, WHITEHALL PLACE,  
LONDON, S. W.

I. THE DETAILS.

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(1) On the 12th of April four letters were received from Mr. Kittermaster of which the following is a summary:-

(a) Dated Moyale March 12th. Mr. Kittermaster received the news of the raid on Serenli at Galitcha on the Daua River on February 24th. He thereupon started on his return to Moyale and learning en route that the Government had decided to evacuate Wajheir he ordered Mr. Glenday, Assistant District Commissioner, Garreh, to withdraw his post at Eil Wak, to evacuate Garreh, and to proceed slowly to Moyale. His reasons for this order were that, as Wajheir had been evacuated, the evacuation of Garreh would have practically no moral effect; that the withdrawal of the post at Eil Wak was the natural corollary to the evacuation of Wajheir; that this withdrawal left the southern portion of Garreh unprotected and it was doubtful whether it was possible to hold the northern portion. To leave Mr. Glenday on the Daua River involved grave ultimate, though not immediate, risk from attack by the Dagedia, a Somali section on the Abyssinian side, and by the Marehan whose attitude appeared to be changing. When the news was first brought to Mr. Glenday by individuals of the latter tribe they were very hostile towards the Aulihan but subsequently from their behaviour Mr. Kittermaster derived the impression that Abdurrahman Kursaal was making overtures to them and it did not appear to him wise to run the risk of leaving Mr. Glenday on the Daua River when he could

could not be certain that the Marehan would remain loyal.

(b) Dated Moyale March 12th but evidently written after (a). In this letter Mr. Kittermaster reports that he received a letter from Mr. Glenday dated eight days after his departure from the Daus River stating that the Marehan have rejected Abdurrahman Mursaal's terms. This news was communicated by the Rer Hassan Section who also told Mr. Glenday that similar action has been taken by the Mahomed Zubeir.

N.B. - On March 14th Mr. Power wrote from Kismayu that unless the reports received by him were quite incorrect, he did not think the Marehan would join the Aulihan, vide Precia for week ending March 26th I(vii).

(c) Dated Moyale March 12th. In this letter Mr. Kittermaster reports that the situation in the Garreh country is most unsatisfactory. The natives live in constant fear of raids by the Dagodia, and the situation is complicated by the presence in the district of other Somali, the Murulle, who have until quite recently been on friendly terms with them and have even intermarried among them. The Murulle manyattas have however served as bases of attacks on the Garreh and relations between them are now strained.

(d) Dated Moyale March 12th. In this letter Mr. Kittermaster discusses the westward and southward movement of the Somali tribes. In 1915, owing to the severe drought, the Marehan, Rer Hassan, were given permission to go as far as Melka Re on the Daus River. They are now at Gerissa and while Mr. Kittermaster was at Galitcha he received a report that they had moved to Ashabit and were moving on Takkabu. These points are approximately 50 and 100 miles respectively South West from Melka Re. Similarly, four years ago there

were very few Somali at Wajheir and none at all at Melka Watcha on the Lorian. Now three quarters of the population at Wajheir is Somali, while they are on the Uaso Nyiro River as far as Melka Galla and Merti.

(ii) On the same day, April 12th, a letter was received from Mr. Llewellyn, dated Merti March 27th. In this letter he reports that the Boran, whom he had warned to leave Wajheir before the evacuation, had reached Buna on the way to Moyale where they were caught by a raiding party of Dagedia Fai who took a large quantity of stock from them. Hadji Hassan of the Mohamed Zubeir, who had been left in charge at Wajheir, recovered most of the stock. Vide Precs for week ending April 1st I(v), and last week's Precs I(iii). Hadji Hassan also reports that he hears that Abdurrahman Mursaal is still at Salagli and intends to send a force to Wajheir at the commencement of the rains.

(iii) On the 14th of April a copy of a letter from Lieutenant Rayne dated Yonte March 23rd was received. He states that he believes that the majority of the Mohamed Zubeir sympathize with the Aulihan but that the presence of a considerable body of troops at Yonte will prevent them from joining the revolt. He adds moreover that Captain Mure does not think the tribe will cause trouble.

Abdurrahman Mursaal is said to be near Merta with 25 oxen loads of ammunition and the captured Maxim gun, which was reported on February 29th to be out of action, vide Precs for week ending March 4th I(iv). It also appears doubtful whether the earlier reports of attacks by the Marehan on the Aulihan were correct.

(iv) Ibrahim Aden Effendi, interpreter at Archer's Post, has arrived here to assist in recruiting Armed Constabulary.

could not be certain that the Marehan would remain loyal.

(b) Dated Moyale March 12th but evidently written after (a). In this letter Mr. Kittermaster reports that he received a letter from Mr. Glenday dated eight days after his departure from the Dawa River stating that the Marehan have rejected Abdurrahman Mursaal's terms. This news was communicated by the Rer Hassan Section who also told Mr. Glenday that similar action has been taken by the Mahomed Zubeir.

N.B. - On March 14th Mr. Power wrote from Kismayu that unless the reports received by him were quite incorrect, he did not think the Marehan would join the Aulihan, vide Precise for week ending March 25th I(vii).

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were very few Somali at Wajheir and none at all at Melka Watcha on the Lorian. Now three quarters of the population at Wajheir is Somali, while they are on the Uaso Nyiro River as far as Melka Galla and Merti.

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Abdurrahman Mursaal is said to be near Kaba-halli with an equal load of ammunition and the captured maxim gun, which was reported on February 29th to be out of action, vide Precs for week ending March 4th I(iv). It also appears doubtful whether the earlier reports of attacks by the Marehan on the Aulihan were correct.

(iv) Ibrahim Aden Effendi, interpreter at Archer's Post, has arrived here to assist in recruiting Armed Constabulary.

(v) No news has been received from Tanaland during the week.

II. DISPOSITION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. Kittermaster is at Moyale and Mr. Glenday has presumably arrived there by this time.

No other change reported.

III. DISPOSITION OF SUDAN TRIBES.

The tribes are to the South of Kismayu and towards Fitu of the Adi Aulihan, two sections are at Kumba, and the remainder in Tanaland.

Of the Jib Aulihan, about 800 are on the Lorian and remainder six hours South of Serenbi.

This information is communicated by Lieutenant Rayne.

IV. DECISIONS ARRIVED AT AND ACTION TAKEN.

No information has been received during the week which has called for further action.

NAIROBI,

April 17th, 1916.

SA/- T. S. THOMAS



P.

CONFIDENTIAL.

PRECIS FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY,

APRIL 23rd, 1916.

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I. THE DETAILS.

(1) On April 1st the Superintendent of Police, Kismayo, reported that Abdurrahman Mursaal was in constant communication with the Mohamed Zubeir with a view to persuading the young men to join him, and that the Aulihan and Marehan have made peace but so far have not joined forces for offensive purposes.

(11) On the 18th a letter dated April 4th was received from Mr. Power. He reports that he has received a telegram from the Italian Resident at Bardera to the effect that in his opinion there is no danger that the Marehan will join the Aulihan. This information is later than that given in the Precis for the week ending April 8th I (1), and also than that in (1) above.

He also states:-

that the Marehan nevertheless appear to be on more friendly terms with the Aulihan and have returned some stock looted from them some months ago. The reason for this act is that the Aulihan

are stronger in arms and ammunition than their neighbours;

that the Tur Adi Aulihan have returned all the loot taken from the Samburu in December. They have also paid the fine imposed and show no signs of joining the northern Aulihan. Vide Precia for week ending March 11th I (iv) and additional note;

that the Herti and Mohamed Zubeir are well in hand;

that the northern Aulihan are at Hagaghabli and it is reported will divide when the rains commence, one section proceeding towards Gil Wak and Dolo and the other towards Wajheir;

that the present reports the position to be satisfactory in the Mohamed Zubeir district.

(iii) On the same day a letter dated Moyale March 21st was received from Mr. Kittermaster reporting a rumour that Abyssinian troops had attacked our forces on the Southern boundary of the Sudan. He considers that the facts as reported may be largely discounted but thinks that the Mohamedan element in the country is probably endeavouring to cause trouble. He strongly advises that Moyale should continue to be held.

(iv) On the 22nd a letter dated Yosti March 27th was received from Lieutenant Rayne in which

he makes certain proposals for the re-occupation of Sorelli. These proposals have been referred to General Hoskins and a decision will be given when his views are known.

Lieutenant Moyn also states that he now believes the Sorelli Aulihan will receive no active assistance whatever from the Mohamed Yusuf under present conditions. The latter tribe have a good country, possessing great advantages by reason of its proximity to Yonli and Kisumu, and they fully realize the consequences entailed by a false step.

The Barbiri will stand aside as long as troops appear in their country.

The Sorelli Aulihan are therefore at present the only people to be dealt with.

(v) Information has been received that about January 15th, 1916, Abdurrahman Mursaal sent an ex-police askari, by name Ahmed Hadji, Aulihan, to Moyale with a letter to ens Hileli Ali, Aulihan, for Ali. Hileli Ali was formerly a Government interpreter and may now be an Effendi in the Civil Police at Wajbeh. A speedy reply to the letter was requested and Abdurrahman Mursaal sent his salaams to Fitaurari Walid, the Abyssinian Governor near Moyale.

Up to the time of the attack on Sorelli Ahmed Hadji had not returned.

(vi) The

(vi) The rains have broken at Serenli and a shower has fallen at Yanti.

(vii) Captain Mure has returned after patrolling the Mohamed Zubeir country. The force went as far as Kumbe about 40 miles from Yanti, and found all quiet.

(viii) Our successes in German East Africa have had an excellent effect on the native mind.

(ix) The Acting Commissioner, Berbera, considers that 300 recruits can be obtained there for the Araso Constabulary.

(x) On the 19th a letter from Mr. Kittermaster dated Moyale March 20th, was received reporting that

the British columns of the Moyale Division the 19th about three hours east of Ell. About eight men on each side were killed and the British carried off a considerable amount of property. This report was however subsequently corrected by Mr. Kittermaster.

(10) an attack which is probably the same as that referred to in 7 (11) of last week's press.

(xi) The Secretary of State states that Mr. Castle Smith cannot be made available for service in Jubaland.

1. DISPOSITION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. Kittermaster has arrived at Yanti and proposes

proposed to proceed from there to Archer's Post.

Mr. E. B. Horn, District Commissioner, Mara,  
is en route for Nairobi to discuss the question  
of communications with the Northern Frontier  
District.

### III. DISPOSITION OF SMALL THINGS.

No change.

### IV. DIVISIONS ARRIVED AT AND ACTION TAKEN.

(i) No questions have arisen which call for  
a decision.

(ii) The General Officer Commander-in-Chief  
has at the request of the Government approved  
the appointment of Captain E. B. Percelli III King's  
African Rifles as Officer Commanding Troops,  
Jubaland. Captain Percelli has raised a number  
of points regarding military matters in the  
Province and he has left here to discuss the  
whole question with General Hoskins who has  
been asked to forward his recommendations on  
each point.

(iii) Instructions drawn up by  
Commanding III King's African Rifles  
commanding detachments or posts have been  
sent to all Civil Officers in  
Frontier District and Jubaland.

(iv) The military requisition  
over 50 mules with saddle for Mr. [unclear]

for scouting purposes.

(v) 21 recruits for the Armed Constabulary have been up to the present time obtained in Nairobi.

(vi) Mr. Deck has engaged several Somali to act as scouts, guides, and interpreters.

Nairobi

April 28

1919