

In view of possible developments it might be well to be slightly more explicit.

I do not omit last sentence overleaf & either add or keep in reserve for supplementary question, something to the effect:— "I believe that operations are actually in progress at the moment; but owing to the difficulty of communication I have not been able to report for some days, and pending further info I do not think best to write to the public interest that I should go into details."

P.M. 23.2.14

I think we can leave the answer as proposed overleaf, but let me leave also Sir G. Fiddes' proposed answer to a possible supplementary

P.M. 23.2.14

Official Report 26 Feb. 1914

Mr. HARCOURT: The Marasha in the extreme North-East district of the Protectorate have by their persistent aggressive attitude towards the tribes created great unrest, and I have authorised steps to be taken for their disarmament. The present position is somewhat obscure, and I am awaiting further information for which I have asked.

EAST AFR. PROT.

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Office of Communications

1914

23rd February

SITUATION ON NORTHERN FRONTIER

Next previous Paper *100. Mr. Perkins.—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, if he will state, in reference to British East Africa, whether on the southern frontier of 360 miles there is only one post, manned by 25 Native police under a Goanese clerk; and whether any other provision is being made for the defence of the settlers in the event of a Native raising or a raid from Abyssinia or Somaliland. [Thursday 26th February.]

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Sir G. Fiddes

? Reply:—

I am not aware of the present distribution of the police in British East Africa, but the total force is some 1800 strong and is being considerably increased during the current financial year. There are in addition twelve companies of the King's African Rifles in the Protectorate at the present time.

Reply

Next subsequent Paper.

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Thank you
(It looks rather as if Le Dongli that abominable S'land were to the South of the E.A.P.)

H. J. R.

24/2/14

P.T.C.