

EAST AFR. PROT
31034

31034
REC
JUN 19 1917

W. Office

Situation in Jubaland

1917

19 June.

Considers that there is no longer need to keep re-occupation of Somali subject to precautions specified. Is of opinion that the peace of this region is mainly a matter of communications.

Last previous Paper.

to
2000 3073

Mr. Belton & Mr. Butler. Sir G. Fiddes.

I consider this a very sound and satisfactory letter.

We have explained in Africa by that the point that they wish to bring out is that sanction for the re-occupation of Somali has to strictly contingent upon our being able to maintain satisfactory communications with the place of road by telegraph, & when the state of the Jubba permits, by river. We are a thousand times to provide for all this, & have tacitly sanctioned (a) the construction of a motor road from Kisumu through Afmaka to

tel. to our dep 22 June
Copy of above to 20 July 23 June 1917
Copy above to 6 W.O. 23 June 1917

Next subsequent Paper.

42
31403

... (b) the location of 67 ft in stations
at various posts in Subaland (including
Kisumu & Soreli) (c) the purchase of
a launch and lighters for the Suba-
... these matters are at present in
a somewhat indefinite & incomplete
state as they involve various
difficulties and as regards the
most important of them, the road,
the Gov. has recently said that he
cannot make a start until the
close of the P. P. C. operations when
free an adequate amount of the town
for the purpose. But, speaking as
we must do with the Gov. that
the maintenance of reliable communications
is the vital consideration in this matter,
we should, I think, urge the
local authorities to make every effort
to commence the construction of the
road, even if it is only on a
small scale. The ^{alone} ~~total~~ cost which
the building of the road would
produce would be considerable. This

It has been understood
to ship the material
for these two stores

W. G. S.
20/4

The purchase of
the launch &
lighters has not
been definitely
We have asked
for details of direct
This opinion is
in writing the Gov.
G. A. B.

Gov 14214/17
E. A. S.

point is therefore emphasized in the
draft to the Gov. Council, which I
submit for comment.

There has also been some unofficial
discussion with you on the matter. You
are most anxious on grounds of general
policy, that the Italian Post. should
be fully apprised of what is in
contemplation. In this case, however, I
we may readily comment also, & only from
the local point of view, as well as from
the general, since, if the re-occupation
is carried out we need shall need
the goodwill, if not the active assistance,
of the Post. of Italian Somaliland.
Equally, our operations would inevitably
affect the position in Italian Somaliland
itself & the local Italian Post. will
have to make preparations to deal with
it. In particular, we want to know
whether it is proposed to cross the
along the road on the Italian side of
the river. Any way, the intention is
when the re-occupation of Somaliland

proposed last ~~summer~~ autumn, but the
point is not specially referred to in
Mr Bowring's tel. of June 7th in 1926
& I have therefore put an enquiry into
the draft telegram.

In addition to telegraphing as in draft
herewith? - Thank you for the
expression of their views in 31034 &
said to send a copy of the telegram to
the org. as well as a copy of 30873
and said to copy of 30873, 31034
and the proposed telegram, saying
that they will see how these papers
show the ~~present~~ matter stands at present
and promising that we will write
further - with a view to a communication
being made to the Italian Post - as
soon as Mr Bowring replies.

~~It is suggested that the committee should be~~
~~kept in communication with the Italian Post~~

W. J. P. 20.6.17
89 19/6/17

20.6.17

W. J. P.
20/6/17

Draft tel. passed by the S. C. 25.

2c

31034
Recd
19 JUN 17

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—
The Secretary,
War Office,
London, S.W.
and the following number quoted—

War Office,
London, S.W.

0165/7898.(M.O.2.).

June 1917.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to acknowledge the receipt of Colonial Office letter No. 29260 of June 12th, transmitting copies of correspondence relative to the present situation in Jubaland.

In reply, I am to state that the Council, having in view the favourable attitude of the Marehan and the apparent inactivity of the Aulihan, consider that there is no longer any need to defer the re-occupation of Serenli, provided that :-

- (a) the Administration of Italian Somaliland is informed, and the reasons for our action is explained to them;
- (b) there is a reasonable certainty that the 5th Regiment, King's African Rifles, will suffice for any military operations necessary;
- (c) steps can be taken, immediately after the re-occupation, to improve the communications with Serenli, by erecting there the Wireless Station already approved, and by commencing the construction of the road from Kismayu.

In the opinion of the Council the peace of this region and the future safety of British garrisons therein is mainly a matter of communications.

With regard to the attitude of the Italian Government I am to refer to Foreign Office letter No. W.115991 of June 12th, of which a copy was sent to the Colonial Office, and to which Mr. Long will no doubt reply.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. Dewart

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office, S.W.1.

PARAPHRASE TELEGRAM.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Officer Administering the Government of the East Africa Protectorate.

(Sent 1.28 p.m. 22nd June, 1917).

June 22nd.

Army Council have carefully considered your telegram June 7th and express following views as to Jubaland situation. They consider that in view of favourable attitude of Marehan and apparent inactivity of Aulihan the re-occupation of Serenli need no longer be deferred provided that:

- A. Administration of Italian Somaliland is informed and the reasons for action taken are fully explained to them.
 - B. There is reasonable certainty that the 5th King's African Rifles will suffice for the necessary operations.
 - C. Steps can be taken immediately after re-occupation of Serenli to improve communications with the place by commencing construction of the motor road from Kismayu which has been sanctioned and by erecting there the Wireless Telegraph Station already approved.
- Army Council add that in their opinion the peace of this region and the future safety of British garrisons therein depend mainly on communications.

I concur in the views of the Army Council and before sanctioning the proposed re-occupation I request

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msd 31949

S.W.
26260/7
Pa.6

copy to 23 June 1917

an assurance regarding points B. and C. With regard to C., I fully realize the difficulties of the labour supply which are reported in your telegram 15th March but consider it essential that a commencement should be made with the road at the earliest moment and trust that you will be able to make arrangements accordingly, even if work is done on a small scale only at first.

If you are able to give me satisfactory assurances, steps will be taken by me to have the Italian Government informed of the nature and scope of the operations contemplated and their assistance and goodwill invited to such extent as may be considered necessary. In this connection an important question is whether it is proposed to move troops through Italian territory. Please let me have information as to this.

LONG.

no. 31074
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Dept.

2370

23 June 1917

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DRAFT.

The as of
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MINUTE.

- Mr. Chaney 22 June
- Mr. Bottomley 23.6.17 fs
- Mr.
- Mr. Grindie
- Mr. Lambert
- Mr. Reid
- Sir G. Fisher
- Mr. Steel-Holland
- Mr. Long

From no. 19 June
 to AF for tel. 22 June D
 Jan - no 237-23 April
 (20873)

2 drafts

(29770) With ref to the letter from this Dept of the 15 inst I am cc. to let to you for the info of Mr. Lee Dalfour a copy of a letter from the WO of a let which has been addressed to the Acting Governor of the East. ^{regarding} ~~regarding~~ ^{regarding} the present situation in India. I am also to enclose a copy of a desk for the AF for ^{forwarding a summary,} ~~enclosing a letter~~ for the period Jan 13th to March 14th, 1917, ^{summarizing} of the events in connection with the formal unrest in the

wo 31024 Lab. T7

Sc

23 June 1917

For

DRAFT.

The Sec
wo

MINUTE.

- Mr. Brailey 22 June
- Mr. Bothamley 23.6.17
- Mr.
- Mr. Grindle
- Mr. Lambert
- Mr. Read
- Mr G. Fiddes
- Mr. Steel-Maitland
- Mr. Long

I am glad to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19 inst. (0165) 7898 (MO 2) - & to request you to convey to the Army Council ~~an expression of his thanks~~ ^{the expression of} for their views on the present situation in Jubaland, ~~and~~ ^{and} copy of a tel. which has been sent ~~me to endorse~~ ^{in consequence of which he has} ~~advised~~ ^{advised} to the Acting Gov of the East ~~and~~ ^{and} a copy is enclosed.

22 June

No 237 - 23 June (3087)

2 drafts

2. I am further to take this opportunity of forwarding for the info of the G. C. a copy of a despatch which has been received from the Acting Governor of Hamud.

Summary
a volume, for the period Jan

13th to March 14th 1917,

~~Summary of the~~ events in
connection with the Somali
uprising in the Northern Territories
of the Protectorate

W.D.C.