

EAST AFR. PROT.

43184

Ref. Rec. 43184

43184

War Office

1917

28 Aug.

Last previous Paper.

41664

Situation in Abyssinia

Considers that strong representations be made to Abyssinians but fears the same action will have no effect - therefore concurs in proposed dispatch of Section 11/6 Kab. & supports certain provisions in Comm. with their employment. Considers no further action with regard to Capt. Royle

See British Leg. Tel. 1/1/17

As satisfactory & helpful to the

As regards representation to

Abyssinia

before any further action is done

we must find out what the

Royle has already taken

any action as a head

sent on 4.16.17

Tel. & write as in last comm.

& send copies to the to W.O. 4

Next subsequent Paper.

43987

43729/17

Tab. 30.8.17

6 out 28/8 to 3 Sep 17  
Copy of above to 30-Can. 4 Sep 17  
Copy above copy to 200 5 Sep 17  
Letter to 015 tel. 7 Sep 17  
Lider 8 Sept 17

43184



Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—  
 The Secretary,  
 War Office,  
 London, S.W.1  
 and the following number quoted.

War Office,  
 London, S.W. 1.

28th August, 1917.

PUB

5/8566. (M.O.2.).

Sir,

I am commanded by the Army Council to acknowledge the receipt of Colonial Office letter No. 41864 of August 24th, with reports on recent events in the Turkhana country, and in reply to state that the Council are of opinion that immediate representations should be made to the Abyssinian Government as to the necessity of controlling their Subjects in the southern provinces, whose organised incursions into British territory constitute a new and disturbing factor.

It is however, to be feared that such representations, in view of the political situation in Abyssinia, will not have any practical effect in the near future, and that the best guarantee against disturbances in this area lies in the extension of effective British administration, supported by an adequate military force.

For this reason the Council concur in the proposal of Mr. Bowring that a portion of the 1st Bn. R.A. Rifles should be despatched to Turkhana as a reinforcement. The Council however, suggest that this reinforcement should consist of at least 100 rifles, so as to appear unassailable to permit any considerable force of irregulars to remain inactive, or in a garrison, where they may be exposed to propaganda. The Council consider that it is inadvisable to employ any such elements as actively as possible, and particularly so in the case of Mohammedan persons, whose retention in garrisons may well be a source of danger. It will be well to ensure that any Mohammedan troops thus employed, in active or reserve, should have the approval of the Government.

to fit the... proposals to... appreciation... 17th, and to... with full discretion... with the Government of...

Your obedient servant

*H. D. Curzon*

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

No. 43184/1917.

PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM:

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

Sent 4.40 pm., 3rd September, 1917.

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3rd September. With reference to your telegram of 18th August I have consulted Army Council. Having regard to present political condition of Abyssinia, representations to the Abyssinian Government as to necessity of controlling their subjects in the Southern provinces are not likely to have effect of preventing organized incursions into British territory, and best guarantee against the disturbances in Turkhana country lies in extension of effective British administration supported by an adequate military force. War Office therefore concur in proposed despatch to Turkhana of part of 1st/6th King's African Rifles, but they suggest that this re-inforcement should consist of at least 400 rifles as it appears inadvisable to permit considerable force of ex-German askaris to remain inactive or in garrisons where they may be exposed to propaganda. They further consider it advisable to employ any such elements as actively as possible, more particularly so in case of Mahomedan personnel, whose retention in garrisons may well be a source of danger, and they are of opinion that all ex-German troops employed by us, whether in active or sedentary work, should have full proportion of British officers and non-commissioned officers with them.

I leave you full discretion in the circumstances as regards the measures to be taken in Turkhana country, in concert with Governments of Soudan and Uganda. I shall

P. O.  
copy

Hand L. R. 42

Copy 30 sent 4 Sept 17  
Copy 100 5 Sept 17

be glad to receive regular reports as to action taken  
and as to situation.

Please express to Rayne my cordial appreciation  
of his skill and gallantry in the action of May 18th.

LONG.

WO. 43184 East

4 4 Sept  
Aug. 97

24 li

In continuation of the  
letter from this Dept  
of 24<sup>th</sup> August (41664)

I am etc to transmit  
to you, to be laid

before the Executive Committee  
Copy of a letter from the

War Office and of a  
telegram sent to the

Admiral of the Fleet  
regard in the situation

in the Balkans. It is  
2-40 long would be  
that if the Balkan

particular attention  
particularly  
could be drawn to the

DRAFT.

The C. S. of S.

Foreign Office

MINUTE.

- Mr. Bickham 28/8/17
- Mr. Butler 30
- Mr. Currie 30
- Mr. Lambert
- Mr. Harb
- Mr. G. B. Miles
- Mr. Steel-Maitland 30 (f)
- Mr. Long (f)

Mr. G. B. Miles

20/8/17  
43184  
Copy of the  
to be to WO  
copy of the  
to be to WO

first paragraph of  
the War Office letter  
of August 28<sup>th</sup>, the  
is in entire agreement  
with the O.C. in

trusting that ~~it will~~  
~~immediate~~ representations should  
be made ~~clear~~ to the

Abysinian Port. ~~that~~  
as to the necessity of  
~~British Port. cannot~~  
control his own subjects in the  
~~tolerate the present~~  
unsatisfactory state of  
affairs in the Southern

~~frontier of Abyssinia.~~ 34

is however evident  
that, before ~~any~~ steps  
are taken ~~to~~ <sup>to desirable</sup> ~~information~~  
~~is required~~ <sup>to ascertain</sup> as to what  
action, if any, has already

southern provinces, whose  
organized incursions into  
British territory ~~constitute~~  
~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> ~~unusually disturbing factor~~  
cannot be permitted to  
continue.

been taken in the 381  
matter of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~incursions~~  
of Adigaloba.

Par  
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