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Foreign Office

1918

17 November

List previous Paper.

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Italian Aspirations

Letter from Mr Sperry to Sir W Reed enclosing a draft  
Convention with Italy.

See on 66371

See on paper 21/14

Nov. 17/19

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Dear Read

I enclose a copy of the  
aft convention with the  
lians, which they are now  
tizing. They took very  
the interest in it, their  
object being to get a  
ger slice of Egypt and  
tump on me some long  
moranda proposing agree-  
ts about Abyssinia,  
x Portuguese Angola (!)

among others; there are be  
translated. I handled  
actual papers with extreme  
caution lest the Italian  
should hereafter claim  
that we had agreed to  
the lot.

Piacentini also brought  
back the enclosed map,  
which he says belongs  
you. He apologizes for  
accidentally taking

way. (No Stracey to note)

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R. S. Speerling

Revised Nov. 17

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WHEREAS certain agreements have been entered into between H.B.M. and H.M. the King of Italy whereby it was agreed that in the event that France and Great Britain should receive an increase of their colonial possessions in Africa out of the territories previously forming part of the German Empire these two Powers recognised that Italy was entitled to claim equitable compensation, particularly in the settlement in her favour of questions relating to the frontiers between the Italian colonies of Eritria, Somaliland and Lybia and the neighbouring British and French colonies, and

WHEREAS H. B. Majesty and H. M. the King of Italy are desirous of effecting a final settlement of all questions arising out of the said undertakings and have determined to conclude a treaty to that effect and have named as their plenipotentiaries for the purpose that is to say

His

His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom  
of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British  
Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India

.....  
.....

His Majesty the King of Italy

.....  
.....

who after having communicated to each other  
their respective full powers found in good  
and due form have agreed as follows

Article I.

His Britannic Majesty in virtue of His  
Protectorate over Egypt declared on .....  
acting on behalf of and with the concurrence  
of H.M. the Sultan of Egypt transfers to H.M.  
the King of Italy all rights and title over  
that portion of African territory lying be-  
tween the present frontier of Italian terri-  
tory and a line drawn from a point on the  
coast about 10 miles north of Sollum in a south  
westerly direction to Sidi Omar; thence south

immediately west of the caravan route (Masrab) to Bir Seferin, Bir Shegga, Palm Tree; thence south-west along and immediately west of the Masrab-al-Akhwan to its junction with the Masrab-al-Qarn; thence south-east to the edge of the Melfa Oasis; thence along the western edge of the Oasis; thence south-west to the 24° 30' degree of longitude; thence due south along Long 24° 30' until the French sphere is reached, but in no case to south of lat. 19° north.

Article II.

His Britannic Majesty by virtue of His Protectorate over Zanzibar acting on behalf of and with the concurrence of H. H. the Sultan of Zanzibar so far as he may be concerned transfers to H. M. the King of Italy all rights and title over that portion of African territory lying between the present Italian territory and a line drawn from the confluence of the rivers Senale and Daus along the course of the Daus up-stream to the southern point of the small southerly bend of the River Daus in the vicinity of Malka Re.

Thence

Thence in a south-south-westerly direction in a straight line to the centre of the pool of Dumasa.

Thence in a south-westerly direction in a straight line towards Eila Kalla to such meridian east of Greenwich as shall leave in Italian territory the most easterly well in the El Wak area.

Thence along the above meridian southward to its junction with the course of the Lak Dera.

Thence in a straight line to the Bisahu-Hamu Swamp, and along the eastern boundary of that swamp from north to south.

From the south-eastern end of that swamp in a straight line to meet the Lak Guranluga north of Chimberre.

Thence in a general south-easterly direction from that point to a point on the coast whence the bearing of the northern point of the island of Kwayama (which remains British) shall be south-east.

The course of the Lak Guranluga is believed

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believed to follow this general direction, and  
if, and so long as, it does so it shall be  
taken to be the boundary.

The boundary above described is shown in  
red on the attached 1 : 1,000,000 map and all  
references in the above description of the  
boundary are to this map.

The High Contracting Parties agree that  
as the territory through which the above line  
runs has not been surveyed, and the map cannot  
in consequence be relied upon as accurate, the  
position as shown on the map shall be adopted  
if it should be found impossible to identify  
the places named on the said map.

#### Article III.

His Majesty the King of Italy agrees to  
indemnify the Egyptian and Zanzibar Governments  
respectively for any loss of revenue arising  
out of the transfer of these territories to  
His Majesty and to undertake the payment of  
any annuity hitherto paid by His Britannic  
Majesty to the Egyptian or Zanzibar  
Governments in respect of such territories.  
The Italian Government shall be entitled,

if

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if they so desire, to effect the discharge  
of any obligations undertaken by this article  
by means of payments of lump sums to  
the Egyptian and Zanzibar Governments respect-  
ively and His Britannic Majesty will use his  
good offices to secure the acceptance of  
such sums by either or both of those Governments  
in the same way as in the case of the transfer  
to the Italian Government of the rights of the  
Sultan of Zanzibar in the Kenia Coast in 1905.

Article IV.

If His Majesty the King of Italy should  
desire at any time to cede or to abandon any  
of the territories specified in Articles I.  
and II. the same shall be offered to His  
Britannic Majesty upon such terms as may be  
just; and the High Contracting Parties hereby  
agree that in the event of any difference  
between them as to the terms the question  
shall be referred to arbitration.

Article V.

British subjects resident at the date of  
the ratification of this treaty in the terri-  
tories specified in Articles I. and II. shall

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be at liberty to retain their British national-  
 ity without being called upon to withdraw from  
 the territory or to part with their property, and  
 in all matters relating to the conduct of their  
 business, industry or profession shall be entit-  
 led to the same treatment as Italian subjects.

All concessions or rights to property in  
 the territories before mentioned which have been  
 recognised as valid by the former Government and  
 are held by private persons or corporations at  
 the date of the ratification of this Treaty shall  
 be recognised as valid by the Italian Government  
 to whom shall be transferred all rights and  
 obligations of the former Government under the  
 said concessions.

Article VI.

British subjects and British protected per-  
 sons habitually resident or carrying on business  
 in the territories specified in Articles I. and  
 II. shall be at liberty to withdraw from the  
 territories within . . . . . from  
 the date of the ratification of this treaty.  
 They will be entitled to retain their landed  
 property and to carry with them their moveable

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property of every description, no export or import duties being imposed upon them in connection with the removal of such property.

Article VII.

British subjects and British protected persons shall at all times enjoy in the territories specified in articles I. and II. the same political, commercial and industrial rights as are enjoyed by British subjects and British protected persons in the Italian colonies to which these territories may be united. All treaties, conventions and agreements between His Britannic Majesty or between H.M. the King of Egypt or H.M. the King of Zanzibar and H.M. the King of Italy previously applicable to the said territories shall extend to the territories transferred under articles I. and II.

Article VIII.

H.M. the King of Italy transfers to His Britannic Majesty on behalf of the Sultan of Zanzibar, all the rights which the Italian Government has in the port of Kismayu under the agreement embodied in the notes exchanged on January 12

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1905 between the Marquis of Salaparuta and Signor Panza, and the Zanzibar Government is substituted in all respects for the Italian Government under the said agreement and will enjoy all rights and be bound by all obligations which are now binding upon the Italian Government by virtue of that agreement.

Article II.

The Government of H.M. the King of Italy shall purchase all immovable property belonging either to the Government of His Britannic Majesty or to the Government of H.H. the Sultan of Egypt in the territories specified in Article I. and all the immovable property belonging to the Government of His Britannic Majesty or to the Government of H.H. the Sultan of Zanzibar in the territories specified in Article II. At a valuation to be agreed upon between the respective Governments or in the event of any dispute to be settled by arbitration. Payment shall be made for all immovable property purchased in accordance with

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this Article at the date when the transfer of  
the administration of the territories is handed  
over to the Italian authorities.

Article X.

H.M. the King of Italy accepts the transfer  
of the territories specified in Articles I.  
and II. upon the terms set out in this treaty  
as the full and final discharge by His Britannic  
Majesty of all the obligations arising out of  
the undertakings specified in the Preamble to this  
Treaty.

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