

1935

38066/3

~~SECRET~~

KENYA

CO 533/457

1935

38066/3

SITUATION IN ABYSSINIA:

REINFORCEMENT OF KENYA GARRISON BY

1ST BATTN., K.A.R. FROM TANGANYIKA.

Previous

Subsequent

1 O.A.G., Kenya - Secret - 11 July '35.

2 To O.C.G., Kenya - Tel. 191 - 24 July '35.

Air Mail { 3. To O.C.G., Tanganyika - Secret - 26 July '35.  
4 To O.A.G. Kenya (w. copy 3) LFSecret 27 July '35.

Lt.-Col. Skipper

You suggested that it would be well for the O's.C. Northern & Southern Brigades to concert in drawing up the details of the  $\Phi$  arrangements for the move of the Tabora battalion to Nairobi.

You will see that a vague hint was included in para 2 of the airmail despatch of 26<sup>th</sup> July (copy to Kenya 27 July).

Perhaps we should tel. as in draft herewith

J.F. Hunter  
16/8

I think that this telegram will serve a useful purpose as it should reassure that O.C. N. & S. Bds. get their administrative arrangements cut and dried, as far as possible, before the emergency arises.

Bill Skipper  
16.8.35

I fully agree that we should telegraph as proposed and I have passed the draft. Although we have warned Tanganyika that the Reserve Battalion of the Southern Brigade may be needed to reinforce Kenya and have also warned Nigeria that a battalion from that Colony may be needed to reinforce Somaliland, this is not intended to be a rigid arrangement - that is, if there should be a serious situation in Somaliland but no difficulty at all in Kenya we should probably decide to send the Tanganyika troops to Somaliland instead of bringing West African troops all the way to the Red Sea. That being so, I think that the file might re-circulate <sup>to the in the usual</sup> ~~on~~ whether Tanganyika should not be informed of this alternative possibility i.e. that they may be required to send a battalion to Somaliland rather than to Kenya.

*Rhee*  
17/8  
*revised*

5. *2009 Kenya - Tel. 216*  
6. *2009 Y.Y. - Tel. 158* } 17 August '35

Lieutenant-Colonel Stopford.

Please see my minute above. You will remember discussing this question briefly the other day. Although, on the Inspector-General's recommendation, we have warned a Nigerian battalion to be ready for a possible move to

Somaliland

Somaliland, and have also warned the Tanganyika battalion that it may be required to reinforce Kenya, the intention was not, as I understand it, to regard this as a rigid arrangement. In other words, if there is no emergency at all in Kenya but a demand for troops from Somaliland, we should arrange for the dispatch of the Tanganyika troops to deal with the immediate emergency in the latter Protectorate and should not send for troops all the way from Nigeria.

I suggest that, in the circumstances, it might be well to write to Tanganyika by the next Air Mail as in the draft which I annex for conson. A copy of this despatch should go to the O.A.S. of Kenya for information. There is, I think, no need to say anything to Nigeria about the possibility that the Nigerian battalion may be required for service to reinforce the Kenya garrison rather than that of Somaliland.

*Rhee*

21.8.35.

*Sh. 1.6. shd see this file when he returns from Chas. Pl. advise to him about 26 Aug. 2/18*

*I fully agree and am preparing a note which deals with the most important main administrative problems which would arise if a Bn. of the Nigeria Regt. or a Bn. U.A.F. should be sent to Somaliland.*

*I have added a sentence to Mr. Lee's draft which may help T.T. from asking too many questions for the moment.*

*Lieut. Stopford*  
*21.8.35*  
*2/18/35*  
*W. H. D. 21*

By air mail

7. To Col. Kengyaka - Secret - 22 August '35

By air mail

8. To Col. Kengyaka - Secret - A - 22 August '35  
(with copy of 7)

21

C. O.

47 *etc*

Mr. Lee. 2/ 8.35.

38066/3/35. Kenya. Secret.

*Handwritten note: Mr. Lee 2/8*

Mr. Frenson *in*

Sir C. Parfinsom *in. 21.8*

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shackburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Downing Street.

22 August, 1935.

Sir,

**DRAFT.**

I have the honour to refer

TANGANYIKA.

SECRET.

O.A.G.

1. Air Mail despatch to Acting Gov. 26th July.
2. Secretary of State's telegram 158, 17th August.

to the correspondence noted in the margin concerning the possibility that the services of the 1st Battalion,

K.A.R., might be required to reinforce the Northern Brigade of the K.A.R. in Kenya in the event of untoward repercussions arising in the frontier districts of that Colony as a result of hostilities between Italy and Ethiopia.

*copy to O.A.G. Kenya (no. 8)*

2. Although the 1st Battalion, K.A.R., is to be regarded primarily as a reserve to reinforce the Kenya garrison in the event of emergency, there is always the possibility that

events

**FURTHER ACTION.**

Copy to O.A.G. Kenya.

events may make it necessary to dispatch that battalion to reinforce the Somaliland garrison instead of the Northern Brigade, K.A.R. At present, a battalion of the R.W.A.F.F. in Nigeria has been warned that its services may be required at short notice to reinforce Somaliland; but a position might well arise in which, while the Kenya frontier remained quiet, additional troops were urgently needed in Somaliland. In such an event it is probable that, instead of arranging for the dispatch of troops from West Africa, which would necessarily take a considerable time, it would be found convenient to send the Reserve Tanganyika Battalion to deal with the immediate emergency in Somaliland, keeping the R.W.A.F.F. battalion available for special duty in Kenya if required. I have thought it well to mention this possibility, so that the Acting Brigade Commander can be aware that, while, as I have said, the 1st Battalion must be regarded primarily as a potential reinforcement

C. O.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

reinforcement for Kenya, the battalion may be called upon to proceed to Somaliland instead of Kenya, should circumstances make this course necessary

I am sending a copy of this despatch to the Acting Governor of Kenya.

DRAFT.

*3. Further information will be forwarded to you as early as possible regarding problems of military administration which will arise should the battalion be required to proceed to Somaliland.*

I have, etc.

(Sgd.) MALCOLM MacDONALD

FURTHER ACTION.

C.O.

C. L  
R 17-1116  
16/8

38060 / S S

6 5-6

Mr. Hunter  
At Cl. Slipp 16/8  
Mr. Lee 16/8  
Mr. Parkinson

Kenya

- Sir G. Tomlinson.
- Sir C. Bottomley.
- Sir J. Shuckburgh.
- Permt. U.S. of S.
- Parly. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

Re-cyphered sent  
2.30p 17/8  
JH

PIC

DRAFT. Tel (recyphed)

1. Gov. Nairobi No 216
2. Gov. D-es-Salaam No. 158

Secret. My ~~secret~~ despatch

27<sup>th</sup> July Secret. You  
26<sup>th</sup> July

will no doubt agree

that it would be prudent

that detailed <sup>administrative</sup> arrangements  
particularly regarding  
1 for transport supply &  
accommodation should

be drawn up well

in advance of emergency

by direct consultation

between your Govt. and

Govt. of T.S. to whom  
Kenya

I am addressing - similar  
telegram

SECRET

FURTHER ACTION.

Send & copy

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

73  
DOWNING STREET,

SECRET.

26<sup>th</sup> July, 1935.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that if there is an outbreak of hostilities between Italy and Ethiopia it may be necessary to reinforce at short notice the Northern Brigade of the King's African Rifles in order that sufficient troops may be available to deal with any untoward repercussions which may arise in the frontier districts of Kenya adjoining Ethiopia.

3. Arrangements have been made for special measures to be taken on the frontier should hostilities break out, and for additional assistance to be available from the Royal Air Force. It is to be hoped that these measures will prove adequate to deal with any situation that may arise; but should it be necessary to reinforce the military forces available in Kenya the services of the 1st battalion, King's African Rifles, would be utilized for this purpose. It is naturally not possible for me to say when the reserve battalion would be required to proceed to Kenya should its presence be necessary there - though it is expected that hostilities, if they occur, will break out some time at the beginning of October. I have, however,

thought

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING

THE GOVERNMENT OF

THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.



thought it well to warn you of the possibility that this battalion may be needed at short notice for service in Kenya, so that any necessary preliminary arrangements can be made. You will appreciate that it is most desirable that at the present juncture the possibility that the battalion will be required for service in Kenya within the next few months should be kept strictly confidential.

5. I am sending a copy of this despatch to the Acting Governor of Kenya.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient,  
humble servant,

(Sgd.) MALCOLM MacDONALD

46011/1/35.

29  
-  
PARAPHRASE TELEGRAM from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Officer Administering the Government of Kenya.

Sent 8.30 p.m. 24th July, 1935.

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No. 191 Secret.

(1)  
Your Secret despatch of July 11th. It is now contemplated that the reserve battalion in Tanganyika should be sent to Kenya if reinforcements are needed there, Semaliland being reinforced by a battalion from Nigeria. Warning is being sent accordingly to the Acting Governor of Tanganyika.

46011/1/35.

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AIR MAIL

KENYA

NO.  
SECRET.

*original registered as  
No. 44 on 35066/35 Kenya  
Secret*

11/16 July, 1955.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to paragraph 28(c) of the General Staff Appreciation of the Italian-Ethiopian situation enclosed in Sir Philip Dunliff-Lister's Secret despatch of the 21st May, from which it is observed that, should military re-enforcements become necessary for Somaliland, the reserve battalion of the King's African Rifles for Tanganyika has been earmarked for that purpose.

2. While it is impossible at this stage to foresee whether the military forces at the disposal of this Government would prove sufficient to deal with any situation which might arise in the neighbourhood of the Colony's frontier with Italy and Ethiopia, see my Secret despatches of the 13th June and 4th July, you will appreciate that the possibility must not be overlooked of the situation in the Northern Frontier District of this Colony, which would be the nearest area to the possible spheres of military operations, developing on such a scale as to necessitate the withdrawal of the detachment of the 4th battalion, the King's African Rifles, from the Turkana District to re-enforce the troops in the Northern Frontier District.

3. In such an event, as there would be no re-enforcements available from the Tanganyika Territory, it is suggested the most convenient arrangement would be that troops should be made available by the Government of the

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
MALCOLM MACDONALD, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWLING STREET,  
LONDON, S.W. 1

of the Sudan, where it is possible that there would not be any serious reaction, see paragraph 29 of the General Staff Appreciation, for the control of Sudan territory in the Ilemi "triangle" and of the area in Kenya now garrisoned by the King's African Rifles at Lokitaung.

4. In addition the Commander, Northern Brigade, has suggested that, in order to facilitate communications, it would be desirable for the Sudan Government to extend the existing Kapoeta-Lolimi road to the Kenya-Sudan boundary at Makonnen Cherosh.

5. In view of the fact that it is anticipated that, failing a settlement of the differences between the Italian and Ethiopian Governments, hostilities may commence in less than three months' time, I trust that it will be possible to secure an early decision as to the source from which assistance may, if required, be obtained by this Government.

A telegraphic reply to this despatch would be appreciated.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

A. DE V. WADE

ACTING GOVERNOR.