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THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

1928

Kenya
Somaliland

No. 15002

SUBJECT

CO 533/373

Delimitation of the British
and Abyssinian frontiers.

Previous

& 10478/27

Subsequent

See 15019/28/51.0.
15646/29

3 Jan 1928
His copy telegraphed comes with Mr. ...
at Addis Ababa regarding discussion of question
of frontier delimitation, and compensation for
past raids.

~~Mr. Bissaman~~
Mr. Bissaman

Since we wrote to ... (10478)

matters have taken a fresh turn

I don't think that it will be
necessary to telegraph to ...
at length. I've sent him by

deep copies of ~~the~~ those parts of the

cor. which indicate our attitude

to the present position of the ...

in reply to 10 on 10478 to say

that we are doing so. I've sent

drafts accordingly

Emachig
5/1/28

R. W. ... 5/1/28

W. ... 5.1.28

2 Tel. to Gov. 5th January, 1928.
DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

3 Foreign Office
23 Jan 28
Its copy is received from Mr. Hope at
Addis Ababa and requests observations

We discussed this with Mr. Kittermaster
on January 30th, and I annex a note of the
position regarding Hoyle which, I think, gives
his views in the final paragraph. While there
appears to be some support for Mr. Glenny's view,
I believe you think that we should still refrain
from giving any encouragement to the idea of a
Delimitation Commission with a ~~neutral~~ ^{neutral} chairman.
Mr. Kittermaster thought the best course would
be to continue to wait until ~~the~~ circumstances,
including pressure of public opinion in Europe,
compelled the Abyssinians themselves to recognise
the need for a proper settlement.

Acknowledge No. 5 and enclose a copy of
the note which has been drawn up after consulta-
tion with Mr. Kittermaster; say that the Secretary
of State fully agrees that the question of
laying the matter before the League of Nations
should not be considered for the present, and is
of opinion that while continuing to press the
demand for compensation in respect of the raids
H.M.S. should not press the Abyssinian Government
to accept a Boundary Commission, and should
continue to wait until such time as events lead
the Abyssinians themselves to press for delimit-
ation when H.M.S. will have greater freedom to
advise the appointment of a ^{neutral} ~~neutral~~ chairman if
this still appears undesirable. We might observe
that the forthcoming publication of the White
Paper on raids may be expected to influence the
opinion generally in Europe in a direction
favourable to British interests.

the chairman in
course of arbitration
in case of a bond
is made for P.O. A
Edu

Mr. Hoyle
Mr. Bellamy

I have with me Hoyle's half
proposed line annexed to
Hoyle's enclosing Mr. Hoyle's
note on this point
and clearly stated also
added to the file.

Enclosed
3/2/28
R.H. News

I annex the Treaty map, and I have also
extracted Major Gynn's map from G.39621/10 - it is
much more useful.

That paper 39621/10, went to the Foreign
Office at the time, and it is therefore necessary
only to avoid an enquiry from them, that we should
point out in the memorandum that it contains an
explanation of the muddle different from that given
by Mr. Hope. Hence the additions to the memorandum
which Mr. Macgill and I have made after discussion.

The whole position is a little unsatisfac-
tory.

The Abyssinians will certainly cling to
the red line because it is what Henslik signed, and
also no doubt because we want to change it.

If we press for a boundary defined

original letter 9 FOREIGN OFFICE. 10th March 1928
transmits copy of telegraphic message with
W.M. Minister at Addis Ababa on the question
of the delimitation of the Abyssinian frontiers
generally.

10 Foreign Office (9805/191) — 10 March '28
(Amending H.O.)

11 Foreign Office 17 March '28
Copy tel from Hon. Minister at Addis Ababa
as to dates of proposed delimitation.

See in 38024/28 (Amending)

12 To Sec 20 March '28 on 38034/28 (copy attached)
(No 10 not)

Mr. Seel's Drafting

Kenya have not yet replied to our
despatch Secret of 4th Jan (N° 3 on
this file) or to despatch Secret of
4th Feb (N° 6) asking for telegraphic
reply. Any action pl.

M.H.
17.5.28 X (29)

? We might have a secret despatch. Observing
that no reply has yet been received to
306, that while, in view of the favourable
outcome of the recent negotiations at
Addis Ababa and of the decision to defer
the question of Kenya, Abyssinia boundary
delimitation until the B. Somaliland-
Abyssinia boundary has been done,
the question of Royale is not now likely
to be raised in the immediate future,
yet it is still desirable that before

the time comes for delimitation (N° 9 not)
Should decide as to the attitude to be
taken up on this question, & acts therefore
for Gov's considered views on reply (to E.L. & No 6)
(to despatch at an early date.) in a general
the proposal to give up "N.E. Surre" (see 106)
(3 dead, but we need not say anything about
that?)
G. Seel
17.5.28.

I agree

(Ch. Walker's view see
revised after wards)

Equatorial
18/5/28

All Barrow
18/5/28

W.C.S. 18.5.28
23/9 21/10

To Gov. Kenya - Secret. Cons - 17 MAY 1928

I shall be interested to read the Governor's reply as the
military value of Moyale depends on the policy the Kenya
Govt intends to adopt in the N.T.P. at present its
occupation is attended by some risk. An isolated post
perched on the southern edge of the Abyssinian escarpment
its chief, if omitted, would constitute an advance though
difficult a border country. It would take a long time
under present conditions, to organize a chief post down which
the garrison would be dependent on water stored in tanks

Mr. [unclear] will
drafting.

X

Seel
31.5.28

18th 30/5/28

Mr. Allen

now remind Gov. of No. 13, please.

Library 10/11
24-9-18

Noted

Think we can give it another month. This is an important problem & needs careful consideration with a number of local species.

Steel
24-9-18

HA

Mrs. Allen

Please see above minutes.

? reminder now.

Alford

24-9-18

No need to remind yet.

Noted another 6 months

Eqm 24/10/18

HA

Provided
Mr. Forth
10/5/22

43

Mr. Seal 19.5.28
Mr. Pochter 9/5 f



24 MAY

- Mr. Bottomley
- Mr. E. J. Hanley
- Mr. J. G. Mackenzie
- Sir A. L. Smith
- Sir G. Davis
- Sir S. Wilson
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore
- Lord Loach
- Mr. Lacey

X 15002/28. 1/2 May 28
Somaliland

23 May

DRAFT

Sir

Secret

Kenya.
Governor Gress.

I have etc. to refer invite
attention to my Secret despatches
of the 7th January and the
9th February (to which I
do not appear to have yet
received a reply) regarding
the policy to be pursued
by H. M.'s Government in
the matter of possible
territorial adjustments
at the frontier between

L. G. K. M.
to see afterwards.

Kenya and Abyssinia, in
the event of the proposals for
the delimitation of that
border taking definite shape.

In view of the
unpleasant outcome of the
recent negotiations at Addis
Ababa regarding the raids
perpetrated by Abyssinians in
Kenya territory, and of the
decision to defer the question
of delimitation of the Kenya-
Abyssinia boundary until
that of the British Somaliland-
Abyssinia boundary is completed,
the question of Dyakale is
perhaps not so likely to
be raised in the immediate
future. It is, however, most

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Bottomley

Mr. E. J. Harding

Mr. J. Shackburgh

Mr. G. G. G. G.

Mr. P. P. P.

Mr. S. Wilson

Mr. Oswald Gore

Lord Loat

Mr. Army

DRAFT.

of H. H.'s Post # on this
question should be
decided before the final
delimitation arrives,
and I should therefore
be glad to be furnished
by despatch at an early
date with your views
on the questions indicated
at the end of my Secret
despatch of the 9th
February.

178

20 March 1928

30054/28
500

MINISTER

Copies for Kenya Govt. } 25 March 1928
Copies for India Govt. }

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Amery to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 10th, No. J. 205/119/1 on the question of the delimitation of the frontier between British Somaliland and Abyssinia and that between Kenya and Abyssinia.

2. Mr. Amery agrees with Secretary Sir Austen Chamberlain's view that before a commission is actually appointed the Abyssinian Government should agree to accept the decisions to be reached on the spot by the Commissioners on both sides. On the assumption that the agreement of the Abyssinian Government is likely to be forthcoming, the Secretary of State is now approaching the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury as regards the question of financial provision for the proposed British Somaliland - Abyssinia boundary commission and the cost of the commission to carry out this delimitation.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
FOREIGN OFFICE

10
The Ministry's Minister at Adis Ababa might be
advised as to this letter. Copies of it are being
sent to the Officer Administering the Government of
Somaliland and the Governor of Kenya.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. FREDK N GREEN

Original copy filed on 28030/27/9/1/ Somaliland

11
11

[This Document is the Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government, and should be returned to the Foreign Office if not required for official use.]

FROM ASYSINIA.

2. Decade. Mr. Bentinck (Addis Ababa),
12th March, 1928.

D. 4.00 p.m. 12th March, 1928.

R. 1.10 p.m. 14th March, 1928.

No. 44.

My telegram No. 39.

Acting Governor of Somaliland suggests May and June as suitable for delimitation but not later. His Majesty's Consul Barrer considers June too late and suggests postponement until November. Unless therefore Colonial Office can have technical staff ready to begin work by beginning of April I think it advisable to postpone until November.

In that case it might be preferable to postpone Kenya delimitation until May 1929 as I consider Somaliland delimitation should be an experiment.

Addressed to Foreign Office No. 44, repeated to Berbera No. 5.

0

(Copy) Original sent to ...

10
17

FOREIGN OFFICE,

J 805/119/1

8074/1

S.F.I.

19 MAR 1928

10th March, 1928.

Sir,

With reference to your letter 18002/MS of the 9th ult. concerning the negotiations proceeding at Addis Ababa with regard to the position of affairs on the Kenya-Abyssinian boundary, I am directed by Secretary Sir Auston Chamberlain to enclose herewith, to be laid before Mr. Secretary Amery, copies of three telegrams from His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa on the question of the delimitation of the Abyssinian frontiers generally.

2. Sir Auston Chamberlain is disposed to agree with Mr. Bristow's suggestion that, before a commission is appointed, the Abyssinian Government should bind themselves to accept the decisions reached on the spot by the commissioners of both sides, since in this way the risk of an ultimate Abyssinian demand that the issue should be referred to a neutral arbitrator would be reduced. He would be glad to learn in due course Mr. Amery's views as to the instructions to be sent to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires on this question.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Recd 20 March 1928 on 35074/28 Lond
Copy (with encs) to Mr. Secretary Amery
Copy (with encs) to Mr. Secretary Amery

The Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

FROM ABYSSINIA.

Decode. Mr. Pentinck (Addis Ababa).
24th February, 1928.

P. 4 C.P.S. 24th February, 1928.

R. 2.03 p.m. 26th February, 1928.

No. 34.

My despatch No. 260 of 1.1.27.

Has Taffariyas discussed with me the question of frontier delimitation. He suggests a beginning be made on Smalliland frontier in about three months. A new frontier delimitation might follow about November after the rains. He would appoint three Abyssinians and two foreigners with powers to settle questions as far as possible on the spot. In case of a disagreement on any questions reference would have to be made to Addis Ababa. He will send me an official reply to my note of August 16th 1927 which I will forward with observations.

Addressed to Foreign Office No. 3. Repeated to Berbera.

FROM ABYSSINIA

Decypher. Mr. Bentinck (Addis Ababa),
24th February, 1922.

D. 4.00 p.m. 24th February, 1922.

R. 7.10 p.m. 24th February, 1922.

No. 35.

My immediately preceding telegram and your telegram No. 1.

Neutral arbitrator, was not suggested although lightly hinted at in the event of disagreement, but Ras Tafari evidently preferred the idea of reference being made to himself in such a contingency.

From ABYSSINIA.

Decode. Mr. Benincà (Addis Ababa),
5th March, 1938.

D. 4.30 p.m. 5th March, 1938.

R. 10.30 p.m. 5th March, 1938.

No. 39. (R).

My telegram No. 34.

Similar proposal was made on the same day to my Italian colleague. He feels very strongly that before we can agree we should be satisfied that Abyssinian commission is a competent one as last time after Italian government had gone to great expense Abyssinian government disavowed the acts of their commissioners.

I agree and I think that before work starts Abyssinian government should bind themselves to accept the decisions reached on the spot by the commissioners of both sides. We must remember that some progress has been made in this country since the date referred to by my Italian colleague. In any case Somaliland frontier delimitation could be made the next before work is begun on other frontiers.

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 8540/1941

and address—note any prefix or suffix, but to—

"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W.1.

Secret

D
7

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his
compliments to the Under-Secretary of State
for the Colonies and by direction of the Secretary of State,
transmits herewith copy of the undermentioned paper.

Foreign Office,

27th February 1941

RECEIVED
28 FEB 1941
OFFICE

Reference to previous correspondence

Foreign Office letter

no 8556/22/1 of 10th March, 1941

Description of Enclosure.

10013 Hall
12/4

Name and Date.

Subject.

Mr. Minister
at Addis Ababa
no 9 of 13th Jan

Delimitation of British
Abyssinian boundaries

Similar letter sent to

War Office

January 19th 1938

Sir,

With reference to my telegram No 48 of February 8th 1937, to which I never received any reply either from your or from the Secretary General of the League, I am, with respect to the latter, disappointed that he is not in a position to advise me as to the result of the matter. I also enclose a copy of Sir John Maffey's reply, which I was able to show to Mr. Holland and upon the receipt of which we decided to abstain from any action. The Abyssinian Government will have their minds fully occupied upon various ^{to come} questions with the question of the delimitation of the East and West African frontiers if and when they should ever come to the point of being fully qualified to undertake for that purpose the delimitation in question.

I am forwarding a copy of my telegram No 48 and its enclosures to Harar.

I have the honour to be, Sir, in highest respect,

Your most obedient

servant,

(Signed) G. H. BENTON.

The Rt. Hon.

Sir Austin Chamberlain K. G.,

Etc.

Etc.

Etc.

Enclosure in Adm's Office

URGENT MESSAGE

From Governor General,
Khartoum.

Despatched January 6th 1922
Received " 10th "

Cypher .P.D.6

Addressed to Adm's Office... Your telegram No 21 and 2. I doubt the ability of carrying this matter if it is not too late.

Granting that your despatch No 21 of Jan 12th 1922 to Foreign Office here reference to the question of... it might result in... which would then referred to... in... negotiations.

However as you point out in your despatch... as... not... of... and... .

You do not... in... in your telegram... in... of the... of... to you) would it be possible to identify these places... is distinctly doubtful on this point. Again Holland has not as yet visited the district and has no means of checking cartographical... whether it would not be possible for the Governor to take... a line which purported to be the treaty line but which was not so. If the Governor also... mark this line on the ground "provisionally" pending final delimitation (again compare letter of September... referred to above) it would be accepted... as final and its eventual correction would lead to... .

Should you however regard my... as... and... it very important in view of your... with... .

the Governor not to throw cold water on the proposal now, I could not raise any objection to the Council and the Governor examining the frontier opposite Naji together provided that it was clearly laid down that they were merely trying to trace the red treaty line on the ground. 21

I do not consider there should be any further undertaking by the Governments to do more than give full consideration to their subsequent reports.

The fact that under the Treaty of 1807 tribes on either side of the boundary are free to cross it for "grazing" seems to make its exact determination less essential so far as they are concerned.

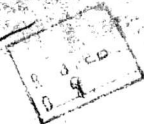
Governor General.

100

Mr. Seel. } 3/2/28.
Mr. Machig. }
Mr. Wiseman 3/2
Mr. Bottomley 2
Mr. H. I. Harding

Downing Street.

9 February, 1928.



Sir C. Strachey.
Sir J. Shackleton.
Sir G. Grenville.
Sir H. Lunn.

Mr. G. G. ...
Mr. ...
Mr. ...

DRAFT

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

2 dfts. for consen.
V. minutes.

MEMORANDUM

Copy to ...

I am pleased to acknowledge the receipt of ...
proceeding at Adis Ababa with regard to the position of affairs on the Kenya-Abyssinia boundary.

I am to request you to inform Secretary of State ...
in view of what is stated in paragraph 1 of Mr. ... telegram No. 14 of January 16th which your letter enclosed.
to investigate the position as ...
loyals, and I am to enclose a memorandum prepared in this Department, which states the facts. I am in particular to call attention to Foreign Office letters

20
however the red line is taken as
defining the boundary, Fort Harrington
is certainly on the Abyssinian side.

... of States's
opinion the essential point to secure
that the boundary line should be so
delimited that Fort Harrington is in
British territory, since as has been pointed
out throughout in the correspondence, there
is, owing to lack of water, no suitable
site for a British post south of Fort
Harrington for a distance of about 50 miles
... therefore which involves
giving up Fort Harrington to the Abyssinians
for this reason, be quite unworkable
for administrative purposes, quite apart
from the loss of prestige which it would
involve.

5. It is in the light of this
consideration and the facts given in the
... it is necessary
to consider the question whether the
decision as to the boundary line in this
area can safely be left to a neutral

be based upon a very full consideration

of the question whether that point is

essential to us, or whether there is

any other point in the neighbourhood of

the ... of the frontier which

is ... for it as a ...

... I should be glad if you will furnish

me with ... upon the matter ...

telegraph ...

(for the Secretary)

[Handwritten signature]

negotiation with the
Abyssinian Govt on the
question of Nagala (not Harar) on
boundary question. I

shall be the first

with the Government

to point out that I cannot

be regarded as an agent

of the Government

in any sense

and may be agreed

to the satisfaction

of the British

Government

and the British

Government

will be given

very full consideration

of the question whether that

point is essential to us,

or whether there is any

other point on the British

side of the frontier which

- Mr. J. Gardiner
- Mr. C. Harcourt
- Sir J. Spence
- Sir J. G. G. G.
- Sir J. G. G.
- Mr. G. G. G.
- Mr. G. G. G.
- Mr. G. G. G.

could be substituted for
it as a frontier post

perhaps (that) is

the same

the same

the same

the same



15002/18 2110-9

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. J 237/119/1

and address

and to any person by name.

that to

Under Secretary of State
Colonial Office,
London, W.

FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir,

with reference to ~~the letter of the 11th~~ of the 11th January 1928, regarding the situation on the frontier between Kenya and Abyssinia, I am directed by Secretary Sir Austen Chamberlain to transmit to you herewith a copy of a telegram from His Majesty's representative at Addis Ababa.

I am to request the observations of Mr. Secretary upon the views expressed by Mr. Chamberlain in the telegram on the subject of the Kaviré District, and to require whether he considers that the considerations advanced in paragraph 2 warrant any change of attitude on the part of His Majesty's Government towards the question of a political adjustment of the Kaviré District.

I am to request Sir Austen Chamberlain does not, in all events for the present, propose to lay before the League of Nations the question of the compensation due to His Majesty's Government by the Abyssinian Government in respect of losses on the Kenya-Abyssinia frontier.

I am, Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

John M. ...

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Copy for Kenya, Accret, 9 Feb 28.
Amud

Messina Furniture. - G.P.O. 174/2702. 12. 4/32. (12397) m.e.s

Enclosure No.



From ABYSSINIA

D. 4.00 p.m. 18th January 1922
 R. 9.00 a.m. 18th January 1922

No. 14. 11th January

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Your telegram No. 1.

Mr. Glenday has drawn up a memorandum which I am forwarding you which seems to show that our claim to Moyale is a far better one than you appear to think. The route of Chuffe Moyale through which according to wording of Treaty of 1907 frontier line should pass is actually in Abyssinian occupation whereas British Moyale is clearly to the South of this. Governor of Somaliland is aware of this and you may find it useful to consult him.

I fear "diplomatic pressure" without threats is a language which Abyssinian mentality and especially that of present Minister for Foreign Affairs does not understand. This has been proved in Zephiro's case. Abyssinian Government are unlikely to accept claim for a big sum of money unless forced into doing so.

One of our only weapons in present case would be to break off negotiations and threaten League of Nations. In any case if Abyssinian government continue to play for time as they are obviously doing Miles and Glenday should I think (? survey) and report to Nairobi and London respectively.

I feel that unless we show ourselves stiff about compensation for past raids Abyssinian Government will not take serious steps to rectify frontier situation.

If Abyssinian Government suggest neutral arbitrator
 for delimitation of this and other frontiers it will be
 difficult to refuse without arousing their suspicions that
 we have a weaker case than I think we have. I see
 no chance of Abyssinian Government being
 able to comply with conditions laid down in my note of
 12th March 1926.

Please inform Governor of Kenya as I have no
 secret means of telegraphing to him.

3 ENO
 2

97

15000 / 100000

357

Mr. Mackay 5/1/98
Mr. Brown 5/1/98
Mr. [unclear] 5/1/98

6 JAN 6

Y Jan 1928

Mr. E. J. Harding
Sir C. St. John
Sir J. Shackleton
Sir G. [unclear]
Sir S. Wilson
Mr. Ormsby [unclear]
Lord [unclear]
Mr. [unclear]



DRAFT

115/10
2/1/9
26
Rome
13
1928



478/2

15 Dec
To [unclear] 1 2 & 3 only
sent. in 8 on 15/12/98

To H.M. [unclear] 2 Jan
sent. in 1 on 15002

X Copy of this [unclear]
sent to [unclear] to [unclear]

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly a letter or report, covering the right half of the page.]

P.S.D.

In any further communication of this subject, please quote
No. 7261/114/1
and address—*not to copy papers by name*, but to—
"The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

Urgent

Confidential

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, ^{transmits his}
compliments to ^{the Minister of Foreign Affairs} ~~the Minister of Foreign Affairs~~
^{and, by} ~~and, by~~ direction of the Secretary of State,
transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned copy.

Foreign Office,
3rd January, 1928.

Reference to previous correspondence.

Foreign Office letter

No. 9227/2526/11 of 6th Dec. 1927

Description of Enclosure.

X. 10478/27
p. 6

Name and Date.	Subject.
From Gen. Min. Aff. at R des Aff. E.	Algerian frontier roads
Telegram No. 281	
2nd Jan.	
Telegram No. 107	
2nd Jan.	

Similar letter sent to

copy in files of the High Secret - 7 JAN 1928

the release of the declassified

under release

With regard to publicity, I have
only to a question in the course, to lay a White
Paper covering the whole question of these raids.
This is now in course of preparation, and will be
ready before long. A statement on the Archer case
incident has also been issued to the Press and a long
article has appeared in the "Times" on the subject.

The Colonial Office will communicate with
you on the above sense.

NO DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Bantirak (Adams Ihaba).

21st December, 1927.

4.00 p.m. 22nd December, 1927.

My telegrams Nos. 181 and 182.

Conversations on compensation for raids have now reached a deadlock. I do not propose to discuss the question of frontier limitation until claim for compensation for past raids is accepted.

I fear however that unless I can threaten League of Nations or the Hague, a settlement is highly improbable.

May I also threaten publication of the whole state of affairs? Please telegraph early instructions.

Addressed to Foreign Office No. 204.

Reopened to Nairobi No. 17.