

1930

Kenya

No 16235

SUBJECT

CO 533/401

Disarmament of Frontier Tribes

Previous

Report 10115/27.

See 16215/30 (Gondung)

- 16007/30 (Khambe Triangle)

- 16035/30 (Ouids)

Subsequent

17136/31

Gov. Grigg. Tel. Conf'd 231. 7th July 30.

Refers to the agreement recommending simultaneous disarmament of frontier tribes and states that the Abyssinian Govt have not yet carried out the recommendations while the Kenya tribes were disarmed in 1928. quotes tel. recd from P.C.M.F.P. - glad if Abyssinian Govt. may be approached with a view to early disarmament of frontier tribes.

This ~~subject~~<sup>tel.</sup> is obscure in three respects:-

1. The reference at the beginning is to the report enclosed in no. 39.

on 10/11/27 - Sent & Conf'd dep. no. 118 of 10 Nov. 27 - a copy of which was sent to the D.O. in no. 10478/27. The reported quoted does not exist.

2. The representations made 15 March 27 "mentioned on the top of p. 2 must I think mean the recent reports about Nanyangpus", which could have been made about the 15 March - see no. 4 on 16008/30.

3. Much more important than these, the principal part of the telegram is itself obscure. Does it mean that the murders

"i.e. the situation to the west of Lake Rudolf.

But they do not mean the relevant of former Sudan with disarmament

all

of 17 Boran took place in  
Kenya or in Abyssinia? In  
view of the use of the word  
"return" I think it must  
mean ~~Abyssinia~~ the latter -  
i.e. there has been a raid by  
the (unarmed) Gurel from the  
British side of the frontier on  
the (armed) Boran in  
Abyssinia.

The recommendation as  
to disarmament of the frontier  
tribes was a joint recommenda-  
tion by both the British &  
Abyssinian representatives.

The Kenya port have denied  
it and the Abyssinian port  
have not. Kenya have  
therefore a very good case for  
making representations.

On 16/15/30 there is  
also despatch from Kenya asking  
that the question of delimitation  
may also be taken up again.

File in and  
not.

~~Kenya~~

This despatch has not yet been  
considered.

On 16/08/1930 is another  
despatch asking that compensation  
may be claimed from the Abyssinians  
in respect of raids to  
the west of Lake Rudolf. The

~~Kenya~~ Foreign Office  
have been consulted in regard  
to this.

It seems in  
view of this telegram that  
the Abyssinians may have a  
substantial counter-claim.

The compensation for 10 men  
is 17000 dollars - £1700.  
The Kenya claim is for 317,000  
dollars £31,700.

I discussed with you  
the immediate action I  
submit for the Govt. for action.

[The Kenya handbook  
gives no help as to the relations  
between Boran & Gurel.]

P.T.O.

C. G. Richmond 11.6.30

The immediate formal  
action is clear - as  
in spec beneath

pp. 140, 141, 142  
for M. K. N. to see.  
all Parkman  
12.7.30

We must certainly wait for  
the despatch before planning.

It is probable that the  
Gurukh who crossed into  
Hugonia a few years ago  
(see last para: before of the  
1927 report) have got into  
touch with the Hugonians  
before & have returned, not  
from a raid into Hugonia,  
but because they expect their  
new home to be too hot to  
hold them.

In any case, we must be  
wary to keep our distance  
in order to save our ill-doing  
tribes from the reprisals they  
have brought on themselves.

With 14.7.30  
at once

2. To F.O. (W) copy 1) 12 July 30

M. Parkman

Rever. to  
J. G. K. A. K.  
V. note on  
Apr. 2

Noted, but I have no remarks to offer until I  
have seen the despatch. In a private letter, dated  
June 28th, the O. C. N. B. de says he had just  
returned from N. F. R. where he had gone to see  
Glenroy about some trouble in the frontier & on the  
question of roads. The locality of trouble appears to  
be W. of Moyale and S. of Gaddis, an area  
between the Mand & Gogum lines which has been  
the cause of dispute for some time. I venture the  
opinion that the Ethiopian Govt. has not the power,  
even if it has the will, to disarm the tribes.

With 14.7.30  
2.4.30

With.

10.7.30

at once

Mr. Noble of 70. may wish to  
explain that his representative  
made at Addis A. in March  
1929 were reported to us in  
the course of no. 20 on 18.3.30.

received  
C. no. 1

Put  
G. G. G. G. G.

2.4.30

at once

3. Gov Grigg. Confd. 114. .... 28th July 30.  
Encls. a report by the A/Prov. Commr. of the  
N.F.P., upon the events leading up to the  
despatch of No. 1. - with copies of correspondence  
with H.M.'s minister at Addis Ababa. - with obsens.

4. Gov. 120. Conf. .... 14th Aug. 30.  
Trans. copy of a further Report by the A/Provincial  
Commr., N.F.P., extracts from the District Commr.'s  
Report, together with a copy of a desp. which he is  
addressing to H.M. Minister, Addis Ababa.

5. Foreign Office. .... 22nd. Sept. 30.

Trs a copy of a despatch recd from H.M.  
Minister at Addis Ababa

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

To (S.O.) - - - 25 Sept 30

To (S.O.) - - - 26 Sept.

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

I fear that numbers 3, 4 and 5 have  
accumulated, owing to my absence on leave, and  
subsequently to the Miles-Glenday report having  
gone astray. It appears that the situation  
may be summarised as follows:-

In May last ~~an~~ Abyssinian Boran murdered  
ten Gurra, or their dependents, in Abyssinian  
territory. The Gurra retaliated by wiping  
out two Boran Manyattas (still in Abyssinian  
territory), killing 17 persons. Most of the  
Gurra ~~which~~ in Abyssinia have <sup>since</sup> fled into British  
territory. They appear to be really British  
subjects (and incidentally should therefore  
have been unarmed).

Retaliations are expected, but they  
have so far been prevented by the special  
measures taken, i.e., the removal of natives  
more particularly open to attack, and the post-  
ing of police. Mr. Glenday states, however,  
that

3  
that, though these measures will probably delay action, reprisals will inevitably follow. In the absence of adequate administration on the Abyssinian side he sees no alternative to allowing the British natives to carry arms.

The Governor, however, is not prepared to sanction this retrogressive measure, but as he very clearly explains, the position is an intolerable one, and is likely to remain intolerable until (a) the frontier is delimited, and (b) the Abyssinian tribes are disarmed.

As regards <sup>(a)</sup> delimitation, the decision taken some years ago that delimitation of ~~the~~ Somaliland frontier should precede that of the Kenya frontier, has recently been re-affirmed. Demarkation of the Somaliland frontier may start some time next year, <sup>(a)</sup> in any case it is unlikely that anything can be done about delimiting the Kenya frontier until about the middle of 1933 at the earliest.

As regards (b) the disarmament of the Abyssinian tribes, it appears from No. 3 that the British Minister has already made representations, <sup>(a)</sup> but I do not really see that there is much more to be done except to see that the Abyssinians are not allowed to forget these representations. Little result is to be expected from them in any case until Major Miles returns to Mega. I suppose he should arrive there some time in December; he will be in Addis Ababa for the coronation on November 2nd, and is going thence to <sup>Mega via</sup> Nairobi.

No. 4 shows that affairs in Mega are none too happy, since the weak Pitaurari Ayella is now being <sup>(a)</sup> ~~chivvied~~ <sup>chivvied</sup> and spied upon by the objectionable Lij Alemayeou, with the result that it is impossible to get anything done.

As to the action, we should <sup>(a)</sup> ~~send~~ <sup>subject to the decision of the F.O.</sup> send the Foreign

Office

3. Gov. Grigg. Confd. 114. .... 28th July 30.

Encls. a report by the A/Prov. Commr. of the N.F.P., upon the events leading up to the despatch of No. 1. - with copies of correspondence with H.M. Minister at Addis Ababa - with obsens.

4. Gov. 120. Confd. .... 14th Aug. 30.

Trans. copy of a further Report by the A/Provincial Commr. N.F.P., extracts from the District Commr's Report, together with a copy of a desp. which he is addressing to H.M. Minister, Addis Ababa.

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Trs a copy of a despatch recd from H.M. Minister at Addis Ababa

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To. (s.o) ... 25 Sept 30

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I fear that numbers 3, 4 and 5 have accumulated, owing to my absence on leave, and subsequently to the Miles-Glenday report having gone astray. It appears that the situation may be summarised as follows:-

In May last ~~an~~ Abyssinian Boran murdered ten Gurra, or their dependents, in Abyssinian territory. The Gurra retaliated by wiping out two Boran Maryattas (still in Abyssinian territory), killing 17 persons. Most of the Gurra ~~were~~ in Abyssinia ~~have~~ fled into British territory. They appear to be really British subjects (and incidentally should therefore have been unarmed).

Retaliations are expected, but they have so far been prevented by the special measures taken, i.e., the removal of natives more particularly open to attack, and the posting of <sup>fixed</sup> police. Mr. Glenday states, however, that

really anything more which can be done at the moment; ~~xxx~~ that subject to Foreign Office concu-

[illegible]

26.9-30

29. uan.

shall you say above, please.

Александров

22.9.20

Mr. Glenday, the PC-NFP, is as keen on improving road communication as the Ofc. N. Oke is. A proposed road, now under construction, parallel to the frontier should facilitate control as look to stop road traffic.

光緒十九年  
三月

Dr. C. Bottomley

It is hopeless attempting to deal with a 'Power' such as Ethiopia, and one has every sympathy with the admin. officers of areas who have the heart-breaking job of trying to run the Northern Frontier Province.

But I think the King's Govt  
was right in its decision  
not to authorise the restoration  
of tribes on the British  
side.

Nothing appears in the  
despatches about a road  
to wh. the I.G.H.A. refers  
such a road might  
facilitate control, but  
it comes, I think,  
nearly touch the particular  
problem now under consid-  
i.e. the restoration of a  
reasonable measure of  
safety for unarmied  
tribes on our side, which  
cannot be assured  
until the Aborigine  
tribes are released of  
the means of endangering  
the lives of their neighbours.

? As proposed by  
Mr. Eastwood.

A. C. Barker

Oct 20 1930

W. H. S. 6.10.30

8 To F.O. (w/c's 3 + mill and)  
H + mill  
(5 Amud.)

10 OCT 1930

Cons 4/10

9.

Foreign Office. .... 17th. Oct. 30.

Concurs in the views expressed in No. 8.

JH. W.

Barnes  
21.7H. Miller  
27/10/30acc'd  
22.10.30  
above

10. 1/2 Gov. Conf. Nos. 3 + 4. Reviewed - 28 OCT 1930 ✓

11 To F.O. - Ghana -  $\frac{B}{TA}$  -

(w/2 copies 10)

- 20  
112 After home conf. 14/6 \_\_\_\_\_ 14 December  
States present condition as to disarmament of  
frontier tribes will be discussed with high level  
reports further raids.

Not very satisfactory -

Something ought to be do-able

about at any rate the

and referred to in para. 4

which Algerian soldiers

were concerned, but as under  
the Minister at Ad. will already have done  
what he can to do. 11-2

previous course. Say it will

be observed that a copy of the

dep. has already been sent



13 To F.O. (w/c 12) 19 JAN 1981

14 To: Gas line - (w/c 13) - 19 JAN 1981  
(12. Amund.)

EW

00

X 6235730/k 8 54.14

Mr. [unclear] 167. f

Mr.  
Mr.  
Mr.

Mr. Tomlinson

Sir C. Bellomley

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Sir G. Grindle

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Ans to 3 m  
1736/71

19 Jan 81

DRAFT

long  
cont  
ONG

I have etc. to adv. the  
act of your capt. des. as 176  
of the 4 Dec. on the subject  
of the disarmament of the Kenya  
tribes on the Kenya side of the  
Kenya-Abyssinia frontier

2. I regret to learn  
of the further riots which  
have occurred ~~at~~  
~~apparently about the situation~~  
~~in districts~~

2. I am anxious  
and of a letter which has  
been sent to the Foreign  
Office. You will no  
be replying to me  
under address as further  
on the subject after the

To 7. - 19.1.71  
Opt h.v.  
(with enclosure)

~~Mr. J. H. P. Smith~~

~~of the~~

is due to the result of

~~the~~ discussion of the subject

with T. J. a. 1716.

(Signed) PASSFIELD.

X-16235730/k 139

00

Mr. E. ... by f

16 JAN 1931

19 Jan 1931

- Mr. ...
- Mr. ...
- Sir C. ...
- Sir J. ...
- Sir G. ...
- Permd. U.S. of S.
- Partly U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

DRAFTS

U.S./S.

To

18 JAN 1931

In OHS. Conf 176. 12/12/30  
no. 12  
(Duplications)

With reference to letter from  
this Dept. of the 28 October 1930  
& previous correspondence I am able  
to inform you that the last letter  
has been transmitted a copy of a  
report from the OHS of  
Kenya on the subject of the  
disarmament of the tribes  
on the Kenya side of the  
Kenya-Abyssinia frontier.

2. It will be desired  
that a copy of this report has  
already been sent direct to  
Her Majesty's Ministers at  
Addis Ababa. The S/S  
trust that an receipt of it

he will again have made  
strong representations on the  
subject to the Abyssinian  
authorities since it has  
already been agreed (see  
Foreign Office letter J 3369/409/11  
of the 17 Oct. 1930) that he  
should keep constantly before  
them the necessity for taking  
decisive measures for the  
control of the frontier.

Ghedj H. T. ALLEN

KENYA.

No. 176

CONFIDENTIAL.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
KENYA.

RECEIVED  
46 JAN 1931  
COL. OFFICE

10 12  
December, 1930.

My Lord,

NO 16  
With reference to Your Lordship's Confidential despatch of the 28th October on the subject of the disarmament of the frontier tribes on the Abyssinian side of the Kenya-Abyssinia border, I have the honour to state that the present position along the border East of Lake Rudolf will be discussed with Major Miles upon his arrival in Nairobi in the middle of this month when it is hoped that he will be able to report satisfactorily with regard to his discussions with His Majesty's Minister whilst at Addis Ababa.

2.  
In the meantime, in accordance with the instructions contained in Your Lordship's despatch No. 543 of the 18th July, 1929, I have to report the occurrence of further raids and murders, subsequent to those reported in Sir Edward Grigg's Confidential despatch No. 114 of the 28th July, the particulars of which are as follows:-

(a) On 8th August two Ajuran boys - brothers aged twelve and ten respectively whilst herding their father's camels were brutally murdered by Boran on the Wajir road about five miles south of Moyale.

/(b)

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD PASSFIELD, P.C.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,  
LONDON, S.W. 1

Copy to F.O. 19 Jan 1931

Forwarded - Conf. - 19 JAN 1931

(b) On 18th August two Ajuran girls were speared to death on the Moyale-Mandera road.

(c) On 29th August an Ajuran youth of about twenty-two years of age was speared to death whilst herding his camels some 20 miles East of Moyale near the Moyale-Mandera road.

3. Early in September the Acting Provincial Commissioner, Northern Frontier Province, held meetings in the Moyale area at which the question of the recent murders was raised by the Ajuran and Boran present. The Ajuran claimed that since 1927 they had had twenty-two of their people killed by the Boran and that, unlike the Gurreh, they have so far never retaliated. At the meeting at Moyale the Ajuran insistently asked the Acting Provincial Commissioner to allow them to deal with the situation. The Acting Provincial Commissioner was naturally unable to countenance any such proposal and urged Edo Roble, the Head Chief of the Ajuran, to continue to keep his young men in hand and to exercise patience.

I trust that the strong influence which Mr. Glenday undoubtedly has with these people will have the desired effect of maintaining the peace and preventing the Ajuran from joining in the feud between the Boran and the Gurreh. I would, however, again submit that it is scarcely to be hoped that the patience of the Ajuran will for ever be maintained against the constant murders committed in their midst by the lawless and well armed tribesmen living under practically no control in Abyssinia.

4. A further and more serious raid into Kenya occurred on the 4th October last when the commander

commander of the Gaddaduma Guard, one Agafari Waldi Yohannis, accompanied by five Abyssinian soldiers crossed the frontier at Gamadda and proceeded to Gadeir. There they raided a Gurreh village, south of the road, and took prisoner three British Gurreh and seized over one hundred head of cattle.

Luckily there was at the time a police post at Dandu, and on hearing of the incident a patrol of four men set off in pursuit.

They found the Abyssinian soldiers together with their prisoners and the cattle, at Diban Diba which is very near the place where Captain Aylmer was killed in 1912.

The Abyssinians evidently thought that it was not worth while putting up a fight, and handed back the prisoners and cattle and returned to Gaddaduma.

It was unfortunate that they suffered no losses nor punishment for their effrontery, but after investigating all the facts the Acting Provincial Commissioner came to the conclusion that on the whole the Police acted with commendable restraint and good sense.

5. A copy of this despatch is being sent to His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa and Major Miles will also be supplied with a copy.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble  
servant,

*H. H. H. H.*

ACTING GOVERNOR.

O.O.

16235/30/Kenya.

10 / 13

Mr. Eastwood 21

Mr. Allen 22

Mr. Isham 22

Sir C. B. D. 22

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Sir G. Grindle

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.



Downing Street,

28 October 1930.

Sir,

**DRAFT.**

**KENYA**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

O. A. G.

(324)

I have the honour to  
 acknowledge the receipt of Sir  
 Edward Grigg's Confidential despatches  
 No. 114 of the 28th July, and No 120  
 of the 14th August, on the subject of  
 the disarmament by the ~~the Ethiopian~~  
~~Government~~ of the frontier tribes  
 on the Abyssinian side of the Kenya-  
 Abyssinian border.

2. You will have received a  
 copy of Sir Sidney Barton's despatch  
 to the Secretary of State for Foreign  
 Affairs of the 22nd August, reporting  
 that he has already made represen-  
 tations at Addis Ababa on the subject,  
 as requested by Sir Edward Grigg.  
 I entirely agree with Sir Edward Grigg  
 in regarding the position as most  
 unsatisfactory.

2 copies to F.O. 9A - 28/10/30.

(5)

2 copies to 70. (12) ref 9.

unsatisfactory. On the other hand, it

*6 of 5/4*

does not appear, and the ~~Foreign Office~~ *Office*

*Conclusion*

~~agree with this view~~, that in the present

circumstances ~~there is anything more to be~~ *further steps can usefully*

*be taken*

~~done~~, except that His Majesty's Minister at

Addis Ababa should keep constantly before

the Abyssinian authorities the necessity for

*serious measures*

definite action *for their taking* for the disarmament of

the tribes on their side of the border *for*

improvement of the situation in the area generally.

3. Sir Sidney Barton will no doubt

discuss the situation fully with Major Miles

during his visit to Addis Ababa with H.R.H

the Duke of Gloucester, and ~~no doubt~~ Major

*be able to* Miles will report to you when he subsequent-

ly passes through Nairobi en route for Moga-

I have,

etc.

(Signed) PASSFIELD

*(original  
to  
Miles)*

In any further communication on  
this subject, please quote

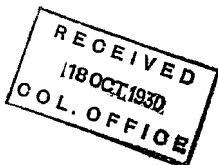
No. J 3369/409/1

and address,

*not to any person by name,*

but to—

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



9 14  
FOREIGN OFFICE

S.W.1.

17th October, 1930.

Sir,

(108) With reference to Colonial Office letter 16235/30  
of 10th October relative to the situation on the Kenya-  
Abyssinia frontier, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Henderson  
to request you to inform Lord Passfield that he concurs in  
the view that the only action which can usefully be taken  
at present is for His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa to  
keep before the Abyssinian Government the necessity of their  
taking serious measures to improve the situation in that  
area.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. B. Mack

Ans'd B/A - 28/10/30.  
The Under-Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office.

O.O.

16235/30/Kenya.

15

Mr. Eastwood.

Mr. Allen

Mr.

Sir C. Bottomley

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Sir G. Grindle

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

C.D.  
R. 8-OCT  
D 10 a

Downing Street,

10 October 1930.

Sir,

With reference to the

DRAFT.

THE U.S. of S.

Foreign Office.

(no 2.)  
The 18th July I am directed by Lord Passfield to transmit to you copies of two despatches which have now been received from the Governor of Kenya regarding the disarmament of the frontier tribes on the Kenya - Abyssinia border in the neighbourhood of Moyale.

2. I am also to acknow-

ledge the receipt of your letter J. 3113/409/1 of the 22nd September in which you forwarded a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa on the same subject. It appears from this despatch that Sir Sidney Barton

Fr. Govt. Conf. 114. 28th July 1930  
and enclosures. (duplicate) available

Fr. Govt. Conf. 120 of 14th Aug. 1930  
and enclosures. (duplicate) available

[5]

has already made representations  
at Addis Ababa, as requested by the  
Government of Kenya. While the  
position is admittedly most unsatisfac-  
tory, it does not appear to the Secretary  
of State that in the present circum-  
stances any <sup>further steps</sup> ~~action~~ can usefully be taken,  
except that His Majesty's Minister should  
keep constantly before the Abyssinian  
authorities the necessity for definite  
action for the disarmament of the  
tribes on their side of the border.  
Subject to Mr. Henderson's concurrence,  
it is proposed to inform the Officer  
Administering the Government of Kenya  
accordingly.

*Lord Passfield notes*  
3. ~~It is noted that Sir Sidney~~  
*the news impressed & that*  
~~Barton considers that the best hope of~~  
*Minister is that H. C. is*  
~~improvement lies in the early return of~~  
*to patch* *Barton*  
~~Major Miles to Lega.~~ Sir Sidney will

*the question of discussing the frontier tribes*  
have the opportunity to discuss this and

*the situation*  
~~other matters~~ fully with Major Miles  
during his forthcoming visit to Addis

*Commission of 1898*  
Ababa with the Duke of Gloucester's  
*The Duke of Gloucester*  
mission and Major Miles will then be  
able to discuss further with the  
Kenya Government when he subsequently  
passes through Nairobi on his way to  
Mega.

I am,

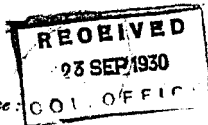
etc.

(Signed) A. G. C. PARKINSON.

In any further communication on this subject, please quote:  
 No. *8113/409/1*  
 and address—*not to any person by name*, but to—  
 "The Under-Secretary of State," Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

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 under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,  
 22nd September, 1930.



Reference to previous correspondence:

(No. 2.)

*Colonial Office letter*

*no. 16235/30 of 18th July, 1930.*

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
<i>Mr. Minister</i> <i>at Addis Ababa</i> <i>No. 111 of 22nd Aug</i>	<i>Situation on Kenya - Abyssinia</i> <i>frontier</i>

Similar letter sent to

Answered 10 OCT 1930

No. 111.  
Copy to Nairobi.

British Legation,  
Addis Ababa  
August 4, 1930.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 281 (J 2428/409/1) of the 28th July last, I have the honour to inform you that on receipt of the telegram addressed to me by the Governor of Kenya, to which reference is made in the sub-enclosure to your despatch, I at once addressed an urgent note to the Ethiopian Government in regard to the incident that had occurred on the Kenya-Abyssinian frontier resulting in the death of some seventeen Boran at the hands of the Gurreh. In that note, of which I have the honour to enclose a copy herein, I requested that urgent instructions might be addressed to the local Abyssinian authorities to take all possible steps to prevent the Boran from taking reprisals upon the Gurreh, and I at the same time impressed upon the Ethiopian Government the urgent need for proceeding to the disarming of the Ethiopian Boran.

2. I presented the note personally and was assured by the Director-General of Foreign Affairs that telegraphic instructions would be sent to the Ethiopian frontier officials to prevent reprisals.

3. On receipt of a despatch from Sir Edward Grigg, dated the 28th July, amplifying his <sup>previous</sup> ~~present~~ telegram, I renewed my verbal representations to the Director-General of Foreign Affairs who informed me that he would repeat the telegraphic instructions already sent to the local Abyssinian authorities from whom he had as yet received no report of the incident. Balatengheta Horui promised at the same time to

The Right Honourable

Arthur Henderson M.P.

etc, etc, etc,

urge/

upon  
~~upon the~~ Emperor the necessity for disarming the Abyssinian  
 tribes in that area.

4. How far such disarmament can or will actually  
 be carried out remains to be seen, but I am doubtful whether  
 much will be effected in any case before the return of His  
 Majesty's Consul to Mega. I am hopeful however that Major  
 Miles, on his return, may be able to galvanise the local  
 authorities into carrying out such instructions as they may  
 receive in this respect from the Central Government, and I  
 shall continue my pressure upon the latter to the end  
 that definite instructions may be sent.

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

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

your most obedient

humble Servant,

**(Sd/-) E. BARTON**

No.42.

June 28th, 1930.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that I have received a telegram from the Governor of Kenya stating that, following upon a recrudescence of the feud between the Boran and the Gurreh tribes to the east of Moyale a clash recently occurred on the Ethiopian side of the frontier resulting in the death of some seventeen Boran at the hands of the Gurreh. The majority of the latter subsequently returned to the British side of the frontier.

Sir E. Grigg naturally fears that the Boran may shortly embark upon reprisals with results clearly prejudicial to peaceful conditions on the frontier. His anxiety is increased by the fact that, whereas the Kenya Gurreh have been disarmed by the Kenya authorities without compensation as stated in Mr. Dunbar's note No.36 of the 15th March 1929, no steps have apparently been taken as yet by the Ethiopian authorities to disarm the Ethiopian Boran. I take this opportunity once more to impress upon Your Excellency the urgent need for proceeding to the disarming of the Ethiopian Boran, without which it is difficult to believe that peaceful relations will ever be permanently established on the frontier. In the meanwhile I have the honour to request that urgent instructions may be addressed to the local Ethiopian authorities to take all possible steps to prevent the Boran from taking reprisals upon the Gurreh for the troubles which have recently occurred.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the expression of my high consideration.

Sgd. S. Barton.

His Majesty's Minister

His Excellency

Belatengheta Herui C.B.E.

etc, etc, etc,

KENYA.

No. 120

CONFIDENTIAL.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
KENYA.

14 August, 1930.

My Lord,

No. 3

With reference to my Confidential despatch No. 114 of the 28th July on the subject of the disarmament, by the Ethiopian Government, of the frontier tribes on the Abyssinian side of the Kenya-Abyssinian border, I have the honour to transmit, for Your Lordship's information, the accompanying copy of a further report by the Acting Provincial Commissioner, Northern Frontier Province, together with the pertinent extracts from the District Commissioner's report therein referred to.

2. With regard to the complaints respecting Lij Alemayeou Tunna, the Ethiopian Vice-Consul designate at Moyale, I enclose copy of a further despatch which I am addressing to His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa. It appears that this official has not yet assumed the duties of Vice-Consul at Moyale, but is undertaking a special mission in the Borana region under orders from the Ethiopian Government.

3. In this connection I would add that it is of course not proposed officially to recognise the appointment of Lij Alemayeou Tunna as the

Ethiopian

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD PASSFIELD, P.C.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,  
LONDON, S.W. 1

Copy w/encell 6-5-0.10 OCT 1930  
28 OCT 1930  
Amro Long-

22  
Ethiopian Vice-Consul at Moyale, even if he is posted there by the Ethiopian Government, until such time as this Government is so requested in the usual manner by Your Lordship in continuation of previous

47374/2962 & correspondence terminating with my Confidential  
47374/2962 telegram No.287 of the 3rd October, 1929.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble  
- servant,

Edward Sney

G O V E R N O R .

COPY

CONFIDENTIAL.

Ref.No.473/75/2.

Office of the Provincial Commissioner,  
Northern Frontier Province,  
Isiolo, 22nd July, 1930.The Hon'ble  
The Colonial Secretary,  
NAIROBI.TROUBLE ON THE FRONTIER.My Confidential letter No.325/75/2 of the  
15th instant.

I forward herewith three copies of a Confidential Report from the District Commissioner, Moyale, on his recent conversations at Mega.

2. Having suffered many years from the vacillations and evasions of local Abyssinian Officials I appreciate sincerely Mr. Reece's difficulties and possible despondency at them. There does not, however, seem to be enough either to arraign their Consul in Addis Ababa or to request his withdrawal as being a "persona non grata". But I do consider that we have sufficient grounds for insisting that he keeps to his own sphere and does not interfere with Fitaurari Ayella. Trouble-some though he might be it would probably be better if he moved (as he should do) to Moyale.

3. My own opinion of Fitaurari Ayella remains the same namely, that he is a weak character who did his best work when backed by the powerful late Fitaurari Hapta Georgis. He is well disposed towards us, and, if left to himself, can at any rate be influenced by us.

4. The Abyssinian complaints about the boundary are hardy annuals and the only answer is for them to hurry on delimitation.

/5. The

5. The incident described on pages 6, 7 and 8, 9 and 10 should give you, as he states, an impression of the present atmosphere. It is not improving and I do not like it because I feel that much of the work of the Abyssinian Mission will be undone if the state of affairs on the Ethiopian side is allowed to lapse into the chaos of the past. Moreover it not only precludes any reduction in expenditure on armaments but foreshadows a further outlay.
6. I trust you will continue to press His Majesty's Minister to obtain disarmament and delimitation.

(Signed) V.G. Glenday.

AG. PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER.

The District Commissioner,  
Moyale.

Copy for your information.

2ND ENCL 25

EXTRACTS FROM  
CONFIDENTIAL REPORT BY THE DISTRICT  
COMMISSIONER, MOYALE, DATED THE 11TH  
JULY, 1930.

---

A

I have the honour to submit the following report on my recent visit to Mega.

2. I arrived there on 2nd July and was well received by Fitaurari Ayella, Governor of the Borana Province, who came to the foot of the hill to meet me, accompanied by Gerazmach Makonen, Lij Alemayeou Tena (the so-called Ethiopian Consul) Lij Dubbub from Oddo, and a large escort.

3. On the following three days we met to discuss various matters, but unfortunately owing to the presence of Lij Alemayeou on the first two occasions it was not possible to achieve much. On the last day, however, just before my departure I made an excuse to call again on Fitaurari Ayella and succeeded in seeing him alone.

He then summoned the boran Fitaurari Guyo Anna, and we were able to do a certain amount of useful work.

4. The presence of Lij Alemayeou at Mega creates an impossible situation.

It was never expected that the Ethiopian Government would send a really good man to this despised and neglected part of their country, but Lij Alemayeou is of a much worse type than it was hoped we should get.

He is a fat, swollen-headed, but ambitious young man, who has lived for three years at Marseilles.

It is said that he was subsequently employed as a clerk in offices or banks in Addis Ababa, but gave so much trouble that his father eventually got him this appointment to be rid of him.

/He

He speaks French fluently, is learning English, and is noticeably well informed; but he has had no previous experience as a Government official and he seems to be exceptionally dishonest and dishonourable.

5. All local Abyssinian officials state that he has not yet been definitely appointed Consul, but while they profess to ignore and despise him, they are really afraid of him because of his influential connections.

His father, Nagradas Gassha Tana, who was formerly in charge of the Customs south of Addis Ababa, has just been made Governor of Ankober; and his uncle by marriage is, I believe, the new Ethiopian Minister in London.

6. As is well known, it has been considered in the past that Fitaaurari Ayella was inclined to be too agreeable in his dealings with us, and it is believed by him and by all local Abyssinians that Lij Alemayeou has been sent here simply as a spy.

The result of this can easily be imagined. Fitaaurari Ayella ( who I believe is, in fact, well disposed towards us, and who is obviously respected in his own Province) is now so afraid of intrigue that he scarcely dares to agree to anything, nor will he at any time voluntarily commit himself on paper.

7. Meanwhile Lij Alemayeou, who is not yet quite certain of his own position, also plays for safety, and does nothing but temporise, and procrastinate, even with the most trifling matters.

Since he tries to avoid showing correspondence to Fitaaurari Ayella, and will not co-operate with him in any sense or the word, it becomes necessary for me usually to duplicate my letters and send a copy to both for fear of showing discourtesy to either or them. They both claim to be in supreme command of all frontier affairs.

- 5 -

8. Add to this the fact that though he is said to receive a regular salary, Lij Alemayeou is apparently even more voracious and astute than the others where bribes are concerned; and that both he and Ayella play at Spenlow and Jorkins, and it will be realised that the whole situation is very ridiculous.

---

B

It is Lij Alemayeou Tena's expressed hope that he will be able soon to establish himself in our territory, and that the British Consulate at Mega will be abandoned.

One can only hope that this will not materialise.

As regards Fitaurari Ayella I am inclined to the opinion that if he were sure of his position and properly backed he would possibly be a better Governor of Borana from our point of view than a new comer; but so long as the present state of affairs exists he is almost useless.

---

3rd. Encl.

23

A. AD. 5/4/22/85.

CONFIDENTIAL.

14 August, 1930.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my Confidential despatch No. A/AD. 5/4/22/75 of the 28th July on the subject of recent incidents on the Abyssinian border and to transmit, for your information, the accompanying copy of a further report by the Acting Provincial Commissioner, Northern Frontier Province, together with pertinent extracts from the District Commissioner's report therein referred to.

2. In continuation of paragraph 7 of my despatch under reference, I have to state that it now appears that Liq Alcmaycon Tuana has not yet been posted to Moyale by the Government of Ethiopia and presumed that he is still undertaking the mission I Morana referred to in paragraph 2 of your despatch No. 175 dated the 30th July, 1929, to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. In any case no request for official recognition of Liq Alcmaycon Tuana as Ethiopian Vice-Consul at Moyale has yet been received.

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

EDWARD GRIGG.  
GOVERNOR.

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S MINISTER,  
BRITISH LEGATION,  
ADDIS ABABA.

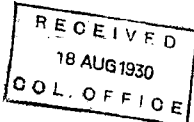
KENYA.

No. 114

CONFIDENTIAL.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI.



26 July, 1930.

My Lord,

I have the honour to confirm my Confidential telegram No. 231 of the 7th of July on the subject of the disarmament, by the Ethiopian Government, of the frontier tribes on the Abyssinian side of the Kenya-Abyssinian border. The decode of that telegram read as under:-

"No. 231. Confidential. Reference my Confidential despatch of 24th April, 1928, No. 29. transmitting copy of report on negotiations with Abyssinian Government. Paragraph 3 on page 5 of part III of report refers to agreement regarding disarmament of frontier tribes. Although simultaneous disarmament was recommended Abyssinian Government have not yet carried out recommendation whilst frontier tribes on Kenya side were disarmed in 1928. Following telegram received 18th June from Provincial Commissioner, Northern Frontier Province, begins:-

"Recent trouble caused by recrudescence of Boran Gurreh feud on Abyssinian side of boundary resulting in the death by Gurreh of 17 Boran tenants and the return of most of the Gurreh to our side. Position at present quiet, but reprisals by Abyssinian Boran on our subjects may be expected. The fact that our people are /disarmed

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD PASSFIELD, P.C.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W. 1

*Copy & mail to F.O. 11. 11. 1930  
Encl. 2. 11. 1930*

disarmed greatly helps reprisals being successful and causes me deep anxiety. Such measures as are possible in the circumstances to counter reprisals are being taken. Full report follows." Ends.

I have repeated to Prodrôme, Addis Ababa, asking him to make such representations as possible with view to prevention of reprisals and to press for disarmament on Abyssinian side. Representations made on the 15th March, 1929, by Prodrôme to Abyssinian Government have had no effect. Shall be glad if Abyssinian Government may be approached through diplomatic channels with a view to early disarmament of frontier tribes.

Despatch follows."

2. I now enclose, for Your Lordship's consideration, the accompanying copy of a report by the Acting Provincial Commissioner, Northern Frontier Province, upon the events leading up to the despatch of that message.

3. The failure of the Ethiopian Government hitherto to take any steps to carry out the disarmament on their side of the frontier calls, in my opinion, for the strongest possible remonstrance by the Imperial Government, in view of the fact that in principle the acquiescence of that Government in the present situation constitutes an infringement of recognised international practice as embodied in the Convention of St. Germain-en-Laye. It is the case that repeated local representations through His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa have produced no result, as is demonstrated by the accompanying copies of correspondence,

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/and

and it seems evident that the Ethiopian authorities intend to use every subterfuge to postpone reversion to the rule maintained until the year 1920, whereby all tribes in Southern Abyssinia were forbidden on pain of instant death to carry fire-arms. This regulation was, I am given to understand, relaxed owing to the large bands of robbers along the border. These bands of robbers have now disappeared, but are being replaced by rascal Boran, who, because of the confidence that fire-arms give them over disarmed natives, are finding the life a profitable one.

4. I have to state that, in reliance on the co-operation of the Ethiopian Government, the disarmament of the tribes in the Moyale, Marsabit and Gurreh Districts was duly carried out in 1928 as an earnest of our good intentions, without extracting similar guarantees from the authorities at Addis Ababa, and this policy has been consistently adhered to, despite repeated requests on the part of our tribes for permission to re-arm in the interests of self-defence against raids from across the border.

5. The reply given by me to such applications was invariably that representations had been addressed to the Ethiopian Government, but as no disarmament has eventuated even the Acting Provincial Commissioner himself has recently pressed for such permission to be accorded. I am, however, reluctant to authorise such a retrograde step, and have informed Mr. Glenday that the proposals in paragraph 15 of his report of the 25th of June cannot be approved by this  
/Government.

Government.

6. I feel convinced that Your Lordship ~~will~~ support the action taken in principle, but at the same time will appreciate the difficulty of my Administration's position in the eyes of the natives, who are naturally dissatisfied with their invidious status as compared with tribes over the border, and feel the gravest anxiety at the idea of being left at the mercy of armed raiders from across the frontier.

Though no report of any actual reprisals in this territory is yet to hand, it is evident that the danger is of increasing imminence in view of the passive attitude of the Ethiopian Government, both towards disarmament and towards any improvement of control on their side.

7. It has been necessary, in order to protect the natives on our side of the frontier, to establish additional Police posts and to arrange for a mobile detachment of the King's African Rifles to patrol the area in question.

8. These measures are necessarily expensive and cannot in any event be regarded as an adequate safeguard. In the circumstances I trust that Your Lordship will be disposed to emphasise the immediate need for remedial measures by the Ethiopian authorities through the usual diplomatic channels and that His Majesty's Government will make representations to that Government consonant with the gravity of the situation on the frontier. It is pertinent to remark in this connection that the Ethiopian delegates at the 1927 Conference endorsed the recommendation for the  
/disarmament

disarmament of the frontier tribes, and agreed that it was the only real solution to gun-running - see paragraph ~~II~~ <sup>III</sup> on page 5 of the Miles-Glenday Report;

9. With regard to the other points stressed by Mr. Glenday, my views on the delimitation of the Kenya-Abyssinian boundary have already been conveyed in my despatch No. 370 of the 31st of May, whilst the reinstatement of a Consul at Mega is referred to in my Confidential despatch No. 79 of the 23rd of May. I hope a definite decision with regard to Major Miles may be communicated to me as early as possible.

10. I attach a copy of a further despatch which I am addressing to His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble  
servant,

Edward Gigg.

GOVERNOR.

Ref. No.270/75/2.

CONFIDENTIAL.Office of the Provincial Commissioner,  
Northern Frontier Province,  
Isiolo, 21st June, 1930.The Hon'ble  
The Colonial Secretary,  
NAIROBI.RECENT TROUBLE ON THE FRONTIER.By telegram No.261 of the 21st June, 1930.

In order to appreciate the present position it must be borne in mind that the present row not only started in Abyssinia but reached its maximum intensity in that territory; and, therefore, that our information is still uncertain in some of the details.

2. So far as we know the present trouble started with the murder during the last month or so of ten Gurre or their dependents by Abyssinian Boran in Abyssinian territory.

3. It has also been suggested that the dispatch by Fitaurari Gedu, King of the Boran, of his son to collect tribute from the Gurre was the real cause but of this we have as yet no certain knowledge.

4. The Gurre retaliated in the usual Galla manner by suddenly wiping out two small Boran manyattas situated under a peak called Gara Dule. This peak lies between the two boundary points Kora and Churre, Loyale (cf. Marsabit Sheet North N 27 Lat. 3.75 and Lon. 39.5). From an observation at ... was able to make the site of the manyattas was in Abyssinia. Seventeen persons in all, men women and children, were slaughtered.

5. But the two heads of these manyattas Ali Karara and Ali Bernaji by name, not being at home at the time, are alive and claim to be British subjects. So far as I know, at present, they are what we call

/'Tenants'

'tenants' i.e. of those Boran who crossed over to our side in 1919 and who have since claimed to be British subjects, though this has always been contested, under the terms of the Treaty, by the local Abyssinian Officials.

6. The position is paradoxical in that the aggressors in this instance are really British subjects now claiming to be Abyssinian subjects whilst the slain are probably Abyssinian subjects now claiming British nationality.

7. The result of this massacre was to cause most of the Gurre who were still in Abyssinia to fly towards the Gurre country in our territory. 'En passant' I might add that quite a number had returned some three months ago. It is quite likely that this was due to the reported demand for tribute by Fitaurari Gedu.

Chief Gababa's own following, which latterly has become smaller and smaller, moved towards the North-East corner of the Gurre district and is reported to be near Eil Mole (cf. same map Lat.4 and Long.40.25)

According to the latest reports as I left Moyale some 300 Abyssinian soldiers are marching against Gababa to punish him for the attack on the Boran. He is said to be going to resist but if the opposition proves more formidable than he anticipated he will fly into our territory.

9. By the receipt of a wireless message from the District Commissioner, Moyale, which was incorporated in my telegram No.209 I realised that a serious situation similar to what I had in mind when I wrote my No.8012/75/2 of the 1st April, 1930, had arisen. Experience told me that the danger was that reprisals were bound to take place; and that probably they would be

/effected

effected against perfectly innocent persons living in our territory. Realising how easily this could be ~~done~~ since by disarming them we had left them open to such attacks, I decided to leave for Moyale as soon as possible. I reached there at midday on June 13th to find that the scene of action had shifted to the Dandu-Gadeir and North Gurre areas (Lat. 3.50 Long. 40.41). I, therefore, continued in that direction and reached Derkale, which was Mr. G. Reece's temporary headquarters, on the 14th.

10. I found to my relief that Mr. Reece had acted energetically and with foresight. Appreciating as soon as he received the news of the massacre that the numerous natives in the Guffole, Dandu and Gadur were open to immediate attack he had removed them as soon as he could towards the Daus river, placing temporary Police posts at Dandu and Gadeir. He had then moved to Derkale in order to study the position in the second probable area of attack, namely round Eil Mole.

11. Thus up to the time of my arrival he had saved our people from reprisals. In this he was ably assisted by Mr. A. Cleland, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Moyale.

12. But the situation is by no means at an end and reprisals in more insidious forms must be anticipated. These will probably assume the form of indiscriminate attacks by boran riflemen on odd villages, or by means of isolated murders with the usual mutilations.

13. And it is to meet these that I particularly discussed the situation with the District Commissioner, Moyale. The measures which we have taken at the moment are the establishments of Police posts in vital areas

/ and

/definite

and an arrangement whereby part of the Wajir garrison will shortly carry out their Field training in the Danda area instead of Marti as intended originally.

But I know only too well that the effectiveness of these dispositions is small and that they in no way relieve the tense feeling among our tribesmen. To meet such attacks neither Military patrols or Police posts are really effective. There is only one way, I regret to say, and that is for those who, of necessity, must live close to the Frontier to protect themselves; and this they can only do by arming themselves once again with rifles.

15. I, therefore, ask for your sanction to allow the carrying of rifles by any persons who inhabit the area bounded by a depth say of 20 miles direct from the Frontier line. They will be allowed to do so on the clear understanding that any infringement of this concession will mean its immediate abrogation; and further that when the Ethiopian Government eventually disarm their people these rifles will also go.

16. In making the recommendation I must assure you that I would not do so if I could see any other way adequately to protect our subjects. For the moment the presence of troops near the frontier and the placing of Police posts will probably delay action but my experience tells me that reprisals will inevitably follow. The lack of adequate administration on the other side of the border also will encourage them. If we are to grant this concession in time an early decision is necessary. I trust you will be able to sanction it by a code telegram as soon as possible.

Further I should like to remind you that the

/granting

granting of this concession will allay the tension and anxiety which at present prevails amongst our ~~tribesmen~~ tribesmen. Moreover come what may they will not lay the responsibility at our door as at present for they know only too well the insidiousness of the attack; and they will feel we have done our best to aid them in combating it.

17. At present, I regret, I cannot report what attitude the local Abyssinian authorities are going to adopt. I trust they will regard it as a recrudescence of the Boran-Gurre feud and concert with us to quell it. We are making every endeavour to arrest the Gurre concerned in the recent massacre. But I feel bound to say that this could never have occurred - at any rate with such intensity - had they disarmed and really tried to administer their peoples. I shall report to you again on this aspect as soon as I can.

18. In conclusion I feel compelled to utter a warning as to the future. So far as I can discover local politics at Mega consist of squabbles between Fitaurari Ayella and the new Abyssinian Consul, Almeida Tana as to who is the senior authority. In the meantime the Arussi are getting more and more out of control. Activity amongst the Ogaden, inter alios, would not be surprising. Any outbursts of this kind will repercuss to our side and probably obliterate the work of the last few years.

The remedy lies in an immediate or early return of our Consul at Mega so that he can compel the local authorities to act instead of sending evasive answers to the District Commissioner, Moyale. Moreover, he would be in a position to obtain sufficient evidence to enable us to arraign the local authorities once more if necessary at Addis Ababa. Delimitation and consequent /definite

definite determination of who are British and who are Abyssinian subjects are also essential. We cannot, believe ~~we make~~ any permanent headway so long as these are undetermined.

(Sgd.) V.G. Glenday.  
AG. PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER.

COPY

BRITISH CONSULATE,  
MEGA MOUNTAIN,  
SOUTHERN ABYSSINIA.

December 12th, 1928. 40

No. 85/I/28.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary,  
NAIROBI.

DISARMAMENT OF FRONTIER TRIBES.

I have the honour to refer to the question of the disarmament of the tribes on both sides of the Anglo-Abyssinian Frontier which, as you are aware, was a joint recommendation of the recent British and Abyssinian Missions.

2. Disarmament has been carried out on our side in the Moyale, Marsabit and Gurre Districts, but so far nothing has been done on the Abyssinian side of the frontier.

3. In a report sent last August to H.M. Charge d'Affaires Addis Ababa, I referred to this question in the hope that Fitaurari Ayella, the Governor of Borana, who was in Addis Ababa, would return with definite instructions to carry out disarmament in his province. He is still absent in Addis Ababa and I have so far received no information as to whether he will return here with the necessary instructions or not.

4. In the case referred to in my No. 80/I/28 of December 10th, 1928, the 7 Boran were armed with rifles, and other cases of a similar nature may be expected as long as the Abyssinian natives are allowed to be in possessions of fire-arms.

5. I have the honour to suggest that the question of the disarmament of their frontier tribes be represented to the Abyssinian Government.

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

(Sd.) A.A. Seldon.

H.M. AG. CONSUL.  
S. ABYSSINIA.

Copy to S.C., N.F. PROVINCE, MERU.

COPY

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI, KENYA.

No. AD. 5/4/22/7.

31st January, 1929.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose a copy of letter No. 85/I/28 dated the 12th December, 1928, from His Majesty's Acting Consul at Mega for your information, and to request that, should opportunity arise, you will make such representations to the Ethiopian Government as you think proper with a view to obtaining conformity on their part with the policy adopted by this Government in disarming frontier tribesmen.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sgd.) J.W. Barth.

ACTING GOVERNOR.

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S CHARGE D'AFFAIRES,  
ADDIS ABABA.

COPY

BRITISH LEGATION,

42

ADDIS ABABA,

No. 5.

March 14th, 1929.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. AD. 5/4/22/7 of January 31st, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a Note I have addressed to the Director-General of Foreign Affairs on the question of the disarmament of the tribes on the Ethiopian side of the Southern Frontier. My Note was written as the result of the verbal representations I made to Belatengheta Herui on this subject in the course of an interview on March 8th, at which Fitaurari Ayella, the Governor of the Mega district, was present at my request. I found that not only had the Abyssinian authorities done nothing in the matter of disarmament in the year that has elapsed since the successful conclusion of the Borana negotiations reported to you in Mr. Bentinck's despatch No. 9 of March 12th, 1928, but they had also very little idea of what they were going to do. I reminded Belatengheta Herui of the settlement reached last year after difficult negotiations, and pointed out that it would be deplorable if the work accomplished twelve months ago were to be undone by the failure of the Abyssinian Government to take steps to prevent a renewal of the raids by the Abyssinian tribes; for renewed they would be unless the arms they were still allowed to possess were taken away from them. Shortly before his departure Mr. Bentinck had handed to him (the Director-General of Foreign Affairs) a list of suggestions for the future administration

The Acting Governor,

NAIROBI,

KENYA COLONY.

administration of Southern Abyssinia, and suggestion No. 6 of this list recommended joint disarmament by the Government of Kenya and the Abyssinian Government at the same time, as an essential step in the bringing about of permanent peace along the frontier. The Kenya authorities had already carried out the disarmament of our tribes in the Moyale, Marsabit and Gurre districts, but no steps in this direction had been taken by the Abyssinian Government in regard to the tribes on the Abyssinian side of the frontier, with the result that the British tribes were exposed to attacks from the Abyssinian tribes, and could not defend themselves. This was a state of affairs which, if allowed to continue unremedied by the Abyssinian authorities, would have grave effects on frontier relations in Southern Abyssinia, as Belatengheta Herui must realise. I therefore begged him to give Fitaaurari Ayella authority and instructions to make a start with the work of disarmament on his return to his post.

2. The Director-General replied that he could not instruct Fitaaurari Ayella to undertake this work; it was a task beyond the Fitaaurari's powers, and the Abyssinian Government would have to be given time to think out a plan of action and to find a man strong enough to tackle the problem, of which I must understand the difficulties. I said that I realised that there were difficulties, but the Abyssinian Government had already had a year in which to think about them. I could not emphasize too strongly the importance of a start being made without further delay; the longer the Abyssinian Government waited, the more difficult the task would become. They could rely on the

the loyal cooperation of His Majesty's Consul at Mega with the Abyssinian authorities on the spot, and even if Fitaaurari Ayella could not be instructed to carry out the disarmament himself, he could surely at least be authorised to discuss the ways and means with Mr. Consul Seldon. The Director-General promised to instruct the Governor of Mega in this sense, and asked me to send him a Note setting forth what I had said. The Note of which the copy is enclosed has accordingly been sent in compliance with Belatengheta Herui's request. Belatengheta Herui informed me in conclusion that Fitaaurari Ayella was due to leave Addis Ababa for his post on March 12th, and that he had been ordered to try the accused in the case of the 3 murdered Rendille in collaboration with Mr. Seldon and the officer in charge of Moyale, on his arrival at Mega; see the latter's despatch No. 5/1/1 of January 10th to the Colonial Secretary, Nairobi.

3. It is too much to hope that my representations will result in an early start with disarmament on the Abyssinian side, but King Taffari, to whom the contents of my Note will be communicated, will at all events be made to realise that he cannot allow the question of disarmament to slide, without hearing about it. There is little doubt that the Abyssinian Government are beginning to forget their costly experience over the settlement of the last series of raids, and their good intentions for the future. They seem to me to be relapsing into the apathy and indifference that has rendered possible all raids into British territory, and it will require the persistent representations of His Majesty's Representative

/to

45

4.  
to move them to take steps that are already nearly a year  
~~overdue.~~

4. Your telegram of March 7th has enabled me to find Sir Edward Grigg's despatch No.S/AD.5/4/2/5 of October 26th, 1927, enclosing a copy of the report drawn up by Messrs. Glenday and Miles on the result of their enquiry, in conjunction with the Abyssinian Frontier Commission, into the raids carried out by Abyssinians during the years 1925 and 1926; but the report itself seems to have been forwarded in original to the Foreign Office, whom I am asking to supply me with a copy.

5. Copies of this despatch are being forwarded to the Foreign Office and Mega.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) R. Dunbar.

COPY

BRITISH LEGATION,  
ADDIS ABABA,  
March 15th, 1929.

No. 36.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my interview of March 8th, at which I discussed with Your Excellency and Fitaurari Ayella the question of the disarmament of the tribes on either side of the southern frontier of Ethiopia. In the course of the interview you were good enough to undertake to instruct Fitaurari Ayella to discuss this question, on his return to his post, with His Majesty's Consul at Mega, with a view to seeing what measures could best be taken to disarm the tribes on the Ethiopian side of the frontier.

As I informed Your Excellency during our conversation Mr. Consul Seldon has reported to the Governor of Kenya that the disarmament of the tribes on the British side of the frontier in the Moyale, Marsabit and Gurre districts has been completed. No steps appear however to have been taken to disarm the tribes on the Ethiopian side, and the result is that the disarmed tribes on the British side are now exposed to attacks from the Ethiopian side. An example of the serious consequences of this state of affairs is to be seen in the murder of three Rendille by seven Ethiopian Boran, who were armed with rifles, and Mr. Seldon fears that other cases of this kind will occur so long as the Ethiopian Boran are allowed to remain in possession of firearms.

In bringing this matter to Your Excellency's notice I would invite your reference to a memorandum of suggestions that was handed to you by Mr. Bentinck <sup>shortly</sup> before

/his

His Excellency  
Belatengheta Herui, C.R.E.,  
etc., etc., etc.

his departure a year ago. These suggestions were concerned with the future administration of southern Ethiopia, and their adoption by the Ethiopian Government is an essential step towards the prevention of a recurrence of the raids that for many years disturbed the relations between the tribes on either side of the southern frontier of this country. Not the least important among the suggestions is the sixth, in which the opinion is expressed that a joint disarmament of their respective tribes by both Governments (that is the Kenya and Ethiopian Governments), at the same time, would go a long way to produce permanent peace along the frontier.

I realise that the task of disarming the tribes on the Ethiopian side of the frontier may present certain difficulties, and must in any case take time. But I am surprised to find from the reports of His Majesty's Consul at Mega that nothing appears to have been done by the Ethiopian Government in this direction. Your Excellency will, I am sure, agree that it is unfair that the tribes on one side of the frontier should be disarmed whilst the tribes on the other side remain in possession of their arms.

It is in these circumstances that I earnestly beg you to use your best endeavours to the end that the work of disarmament on the Ethiopian side of the frontier may be begun at the earliest possible moment. In this way alone can the dangers of the present situation be removed.

In the meantime, I am enquiring of the Governor of Kenya whether the rifles taken from the tribes on the British side of the frontier were paid for by the Kenya authorities, or simply confiscated.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the expression of my high consideration.

(Sgd.) R. Dunbar.

COPY

BRITISH CONSULATE, 48  
MEGA MOUNTAIN,  
SOUTHERN ABISSINIA,  
VIA BRITISH LEGATION,  
ADDIS ABABA.

No. 235/I/52.

June 25th, 1929.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary,  
NAIROBI.

DISARMAMENT OF FRONTIER TRIBES.

Ref. Addis Ababa despatches Nos. 6 of March 14th and  
7 of March 15th, 1929.

Fitaurari Ayella informs me that he was instructed by Belatengheta Herui that the latter would see King Taffari with regard to the disarmament of the Abyssinian frontier tribes, that definite instructions would then be sent to him and that he was to take no steps in the matter pending such instructions.

2. Fitaurari Ayella expects to receive these instructions shortly and states he is anxious to carry out disarmament as soon as possible.

(Sgd.) A.A. Seldon.

H.M. AG. CONSUL.  
S. ABYSSINIA.

Copy to:-

HON. CHIEF NATIVE COMMISSIONER.

THE PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER,

NORTHERN FRONTIER PROVINCE.

49  
COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

Refce. No. 8012/75/2.

Office of the Provincial Commissioner,  
Northern Frontier Province,

Isiolo, 1st April, 1930.

The Hon'ble  
The Colonial Secretary,  
NAIROBI.

MURDERS BY ABYSSINIAN BORAN.

By No. 6879/75/2 of the 12th August, 1929.

I have just returned from Moyale after making a thorough enquiry into this question.

After so prolonged a period of quiescence this portends a recrudescence of lawlessness along the frontier. It has been my endeavour to try and prevent this by discovering, if possible, what is its cause.

2. As you are aware this form of violence is comparatively fresh in the history of the frontier and there is probably a new factor which either allows or encourages it to arise.

3. I have now no hesitation in saying that it is entirely due to the fact that whilst we have disarmed our natives the Abyssinian Authorities have not done so as well. The result is that whereas formerly the present assassins would not have dared to face our people because they too were armed they now find them defenceless. And the grave danger is that these crimes are easy to commit but hard to bring the authors to book.

4. I was especially impressed at Moyale by the bitter feeling which prevailed amongst our local population whilst the chiefs and elders were emphatic that Government by disarmament, had exposed them to these dastardly

dastardly attacks. They begged that either the population North of the line be disarmed or that they should be ~~allowed~~ to re-arm themselves.

5. Another confusing factor is to discover why the Abyssinian Authorities have departed from, or rather refuse to return to, their traditional policy, of not allowing their natives to carry rifles under any circumstances whatsoever.

I think they would disarm was it not for the belief that, by allowing their natives to possess rifles whilst ours have none, they hope not only to prevent further migrations to our side but even to attract back some of their population.

6. At all events the situation is now sufficiently serious to impel us to take action; and there are, I believe, but two alternatives:

(a) To obtain a definite guarantee from the Ethiopian Government that they will disarm their natives at the earliest possible moment;

(b) or to allow our natives to re-arm.

But the former offers little hope of any immediate action or of anything effective being done whilst the latter alternative is a retrograde step.

7. I shall be grateful to hear what action it is proposed to take.

8. I should at the same time like to take the opportunity of observing that although the period of quiescence which has now lasted over two years is probably due to the indemnity paid by the Ethiopian Government, yet they have, in fact, taken no real steps to improve their administration; or to adopt any of the suggestions

suggestions recommended to them by His Majesty's Minister.  
Indeed the return of Pitaurari Walde Gabriel  
after all the complaints which we proved against him  
is depressing. Similarly the promise of appointing  
a man of real authority in place of Pitaurari Ayella  
has not been fulfilled. The good effect of the  
Indemnity will soon wear off, and there is nothing, at  
present, which gives one any confidence that their  
administration is any better than it was formerly.

(Sgd., V.G. Glenday.

AG. PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER.

KENYA.

N/AD.5/4/22/75.

CONFIDENTIAL.

28 July, 1930.

Sir,

In continuation of my Confidential telegram No.139 of the 18th of June, I have the honour to transmit, for your information, the accompanying copy of reports dated the 21st of June and the 10th July from the Acting Provincial Commissioner, Northern Frontier Province, relating to recent incidents near the border.

2. It will be observed that in paragraph 15 of his first report, the Provincial Commissioner recommends that permission be granted temporarily to the natives inhabiting the area near the frontier in Kenya to carry firearms. In view of the established policy in this respect, I have been unable to authorize his request, as I am reluctant to embark upon action which is obviously retrograde.

3. I am, however, not satisfied with the present position regarding disarmament, and am strongly of the opinion that the Ethiopian Government should give immediate effect to the recommendations of the Conference of 1927, which were implemented by this Government in the following year without any /guarantee.

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S MINISTER,  
BRITISH LEGATION,  
ADDIS ABABA.

guaranteed, but in reliance on the spirit of co-operation which had been evinced by the authorities at Addis Ababa.

4. With this end in view, I have thought it desirable to reinforce the representations which you have made by a request to the Secretary of State for the Colonies that His Majesty's Government should make representations to the Ethiopian Government consonant with the gravity of the present situation on the frontier.

5. With regard to paragraph 13 of Mr. Glenday's report of the 21st of June, I have already informed the Secretary of State that I am unable, owing to shortage of Administrative staff, to second an Administrative Officer to fill the place of Major Miles at Mega, and consider that the filling of that Consulate should be held in abeyance until it is known whether Major Miles, who left for England on the 7th of June on the recommendation of a Medical Board, can resume his post, or whether alternatively it will be necessary to appoint a substantive successor.

6. As regards the delimitation of the Konya-Abyssinian boundary, I invite your attention to my despatch No. 370 of the 31st of May to the Secretary of State, a copy of which has been forwarded to you.

7. In his report dated the 10th July, Mr. Glenday draws attention to the unsatisfactory relations existing between Alamyeou Tunna, the Ethiopian Vice-Consul at Moyale and Fitaurari Ayolla. Whilst realising that the position of the former is a difficult one, in that his duties appear to be more in the nature of those  
/of

of a Frontier Agent than those ordinarily assigned to Consular Officers, I shall be glad if you could take any steps which in your opinion seem advisable to impress upon the Ethiopian Government the necessity of maintaining at Moyale a Vice-Consul who will co-operate fully with the authorities on both sides of the frontier.

8. I trust that in any case I may be able to rely on your good offices to continue to press for the disarmament and more satisfactory administration by the Ethiopian Government of the tribes bordering this Colony.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

EDWARD GRIGG

GOVERNOR.

16235730 k 2

0.0

Mr. Eastman 11/7

Mr. Parkman 12.7.30

Mr.

Mr. G. Ballouley

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Sir G. Grindle

Permt. U.S. of S.

Partly U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

18 July 1930



Sir.

**DRAFT.**

for review

The US/S

Foreign Office

✓

I am etc. to him. to you,  
to be laid before his Lord  
Henderson, the actual copies  
of a tel. from the Gov. of  
Kenya regarding the situation  
on the Kenya - Abyssinia  
frontier.

2 The report referred  
to in the first sentence of  
this telegram is that of  
Major ~~the~~ miles of the  
Glenard ~~the~~ ~~the~~  
with the Abyssinians on the  
work of the Joint Commission  
which arrived into the  
situation on the frontier in  
1927. A copy of this report  
was enclosed in Colonial Office

Dr. Corbett 7.7.30  
no. 1

Revised D. & L. A. R.

Letter 10478/27 of the

no. 9 on 10478/29

15 Dec: 1927. It will

be seen that the recommendation  
that the ~~former~~ <sup>should be dismissed</sup> tribes was  
a joint recommendation made  
by the Abyssinian as well  
as by the British delegates.

3. The sense of the  
telegram from the ~~Provincial~~  
Comm<sup>o</sup> Northern Frontier Province  
which is quoted by the Gov. is  
not altogether clear, but  
it would however appear that  
the ~~murder~~ <sup>of</sup> 17 Boran  
took place in Abyssinian  
territory & that the Gurrals  
have now returned to British  
territory.

now is the up<sup>d</sup>. li  
representation  
made in March  
1929 under ~~the~~

but all deep.  
wh. is promised  
will no doubt  
~~be the result~~  
set out the  
position more  
fully.

4. It will be shown  
that the Gov. has info<sup>d</sup> the H<sup>o</sup> M<sup>t</sup>'s  
Minister at Addis Ababa  
of the situation & has asked  
him to make representations on

C. O.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir G. Bottomley

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Sir G. Grindle

Parli. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State

DRAFT.

the subject. The Minister will  
no doubt report in due course  
the what measure he has  
found it possible to take.

~~He will also be shown that  
the Cgo. promises a help  
on the subject, & that while  
he is not to  
be able to give full details  
of the occurrence (5) in the~~

Cited Lord Panfil's ~~and~~  
is disposed to think  
~~does not wish to suggest that~~  
~~any immediate action should~~  
~~be taken, but at present~~  
that the promised dispatch  
shd be awaited & a

Further letter will be  
~~sent~~  
~~to you~~  
~~as it is required~~  
~~add that~~

before action is given  
to the question of releasing  
instructions to the  
Minister at A. C. Alaba  
unless communication  
in the mean time from  
the Minister is available  
in action.

C. O. 533 / 401  
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

as is known, no representation  
was made to the Algerians  
last in March 1930. It  
is presumed that the representation  
expressed to at the end of the  
Soviet telegram was made  
as the result of the Soviet tel.

It is not clear  
to what representa-  
tion ref. is made  
at the end of the  
Soviet telegram;  
but it may be  
that there is a  
clerical error  
& that ref. is intended  
to representation  
no. 2 or

N<sup>o</sup>. 65  
of the 15<sup>th</sup> March 1930, a copy  
of which was enclosed in the  
letter from this Dept. of the  
16008/30 of the 20<sup>th</sup> March 1930.

16008/30

no. 5 a  
16008/30

(Signed) PABKIN

RECEIVED  
- 9 JUL 1930  
COL. OFFICE

57

Telegram from the Governor of Kenya, to the Secretary of State for the Colonies

Dated 7th July, 1930.

(Received Colonial Office 6.35 p.m. 7th July, 1930).

231. Confidential.

My despatch of 24th April, 1928 Confidential 29, transmitting copy of report of negotiations with Abyssinian Government. Paragraph 3 page 5 of Part 3 of Report refers to agreement regarding disarmament of frontier tribes. Although simultaneous disarmament was recommended, Abyssinian Government have not yet carried out the recommendations while the Kenya tribes were disarmed in 1928. Following telegram has been received from the Provincial Commissioner, Northern frontier province; 18th June, begins:

Recent trouble caused by resurgence of Boran Gurreh feud on the side of the boundary resulting in deaths by the Gurreh of 17 Boran tenants and return to our side of most of the Gurreh. Position at present quiet but reprisals by Abyssinian Boran on our subjects may be expected. The fact that our people are disarmed greatly helps reprisals being successful and causes me great anxiety. Such measures as are possible in the circumstances to counter reprisals are being taken. Full report follows message ends. I have repeated to Minister at Addis Ababa asking him to make such representations as possible with a view to prevention of reprisals and to press for disarmament on Abyssinian side

Report No. 39  
in 10/115  
2)

Copy to F.O 18/7/30

side. Representations made 15th March, 1929, by  
Minister to Abyssinian Government have had no effect.

I shall be glad if Abyssinian Government may be  
approached through diplomatic channels with a view  
to early disarmament of frontier tribes.  
Despatch follows.