

1925

KENYA
SOMALILAND

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DATE

70.

16 July 1925

REGULATION:

Graph
U.S. of S.
to St. Joseph

Slave-raids in Abyssinia 169

Sends copy letter to
Sir & Lugard enclosing
memo re

U.S. of S.
U.S. of S.
Secretary of State.

Previous Paper

440 31326

MINUTES

9 Party

6.15. 20.7.25

July 20 1925

Put by ✓

SKIA

Subsequent Paper

~~440 31326~~
440. 44915

C. O.
32694
13 JUL 25

In any further communication
on this subject, please quote
No. 91840/673/1
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 copies of the under-mentioned paper for such
observations as *the Secretary Army*
may desire to offer.

Foreign Office,
16th July, 1925.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Foreign Office letter G. 9653/353/1 of 14th June 1925
40.53694/2

Description of Enclosure.

| Name and Date. | Subject. |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <p>to Sir J. Lugard of 14th July 1925</p> | <p>Slave raids in Abyssinia</p> |

Similar letter sent to ✓

14th July, 1928.

Confidential.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 22nd March last in which you requested to be furnished among other things with a statement of the raids carried out by Abyssinians on British territory since the admission of Abyssinia to the League of Nations, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to inform you that he has now received from His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa a report in which this information is given.

3. As, however, Mr. Bentinck's report contains a large number of references to correspondences with this department, it has been thought more convenient for our purpose to summarise the information furnished by him and to supply you with a copy of the enclosed summary rather than of his despatch itself.

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Honourable

Lugard, C.O.S.O.,

MEMORANDUM.

Since Abyssinia joined the League of Nations the traffic in slaves has continued, despite the publication of an edict calling the attention of Provincial Governors to the regulations for the emancipation of slaves. The edict in question remains a dead letter as there is no machinery for its enforcement, and as its object is in opposition to the profound conservative instincts of those responsible for its execution, whose attitude is "if our fathers had slaves, why should not we?". It is true that slaves are no longer bought and sold openly and that the traffic is disguised as far as possible, especially in provinces where British Consuls are stationed. If there is less slave raiding on the frontiers, it is not because of the edict or of any measures of control by the Ethiopian Government, but it is merely the result of the exhaustion of the fields of supply.

The main channel for the export of slaves appears to be through the Wollo Province, where detachments are collected from slave dealers, and thence marched to the Tajura district in the north of Jibuti. It is alleged that the Sultan of Tajura, who has the reputation of being a leading slave trader, makes a handsome profit from the slaves he is able to ship to Arabia. The Italian Government exercises strict control on the sea ports on the Eritrean coast, but French control over the territory of the Sultan of Tajura is less effective.

For the reasons stated above raids for slaves on British territory have recently become less frequent. The chief raids since September 1923 are summarised in the following table:-

Locality

| Locality. | Date. | Leader. | Loss. |
|---|---------------|--|--|
| <u>Outside Abyssinia.</u> | | | |
| 1. <u>Aisha River</u> (S.E. Sudan) | October 1923. | Dejammatah Mukria (local Abyssinian Governor) with 2000 rifles. | Women and children Several 1000 head of cattle. |
| 2. <u>Rahad River</u> (36 miles S.W. of Gallabat). | Jan. 26 1924. | Unknown (about 20 men). | Nil: two Abyssinians killed |
| 3. <u>Lisa</u> (Daga River 150 miles east of Malakal) | February 1924 | Begala, accompanied by Kanamatch Manuri and about 200 rifles. | "Tribute" collected and a few Nuers captured who later escaped. |
| 4. <u>River Dinder</u> (N.E. Sennar Province of Sudan) | March 26 1924 | Unknown (about 20 men). | Nil. |
| 5. <u>Lorienatom</u> (S.W. corner of Lake Rudolf) | 7 April 1924 | Kanyamatch (with 150 rifles) | Many 1000 head of cattle and several 100 women and children. |

Many smaller raids, usually carried out by ivory poachers, have occurred both on the Sudanese and the Kenya frontiers since the admission of Abyssinia to the League, but their results have been negligible and particulars are not available.

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usually at \$40 a head) or gave away into slavery a large number of
 people. Generally speaking in this part of Abyssinia, although
 slave trade is still carried on, slave raiding may almost be said
 to be non-existent. The same situation exists in Harar (S.E.
 Abyssinia) though slave trading is less prevalent.

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