

1925

KENYA

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C. O.
43394
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FOREIGN OFFICE.

Date
25th September 1925.

CIRCULATION:—

Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Asst. U.S. of S.

REPATRIATION OF DEGODIA TRIBE TO ABYSSINIA.

Fwds copies of despatches from Addis Ababa reporting arrangements made for - . Proposes to approve action taken.

Perm' U.S. of S.
Verb U.S. of S.
Secretary of State.

Previous Paper

P.O. 40498

MINUTES

See on Gov/43955

Local Attorney

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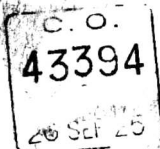
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Subsequent Paper

P.A.C. 43694

In any further communication
on this subject, please quote
No. J 2767/1121/1.
and address—
not to any person by name,



FOREIGN OFFICE.

S.W.1.

25th September, 1925.

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

Sir,

With reference to the letter from this department of the 22nd August regarding the migration of the Degodia tribe into Kenya, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of two despatches from His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa, reporting the arrangements made for the repatriation of this tribe to Abyssinia.

2. Subject to the concurrence of Mr. Amery, Mr. Chamberlain proposes to approve the action taken by Mr. Bentinck.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Henry Herbert

Under-Secretary of State,

Colonial Office.

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Addis Ababa

24th August 1935

Sir,

With reference to your telegram No. 46 of the 20th instant I have the honour to refer ^{you} to my despatch of July 13th addressed to the Acting Governor of Kenya, a copy of which was forwarded to you under cover of my despatch No. 74 of the same date, in which I reported favourably upon Fitaurari Ayalla, adding that he was probably the best chief available to receive back the Dagedia fugitives.

2. My despatch to the Acting Governor of Kenya, a copy of which I am forwarding to you by this bag, under cover of my No. 108 of the 20th instant, will show that the Minister of War has authorized Fitaurari Ayalla to make the necessary arrangements to receive back this tribe. The Dagedia and the Yabena are, I understand, the same tribe.

3. I trust that Fitaurari Ayalla will by now have reached the province, and have got into touch with His Majesty's Consul at Mega, for he had unfortunately not arrived there when I wrote my despatch No. 90 of July 31st.

4. I am forwarding a copy of this despatch to Nairobi.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(signed) C.H. Bentinck

Hon.
 Austen Chamberlain M. P.,

etc.. etc.. etc.

Addis Ababa

20th August 1925

Sir,

With further reference to your letter No.B/A 22845/1/102 of June 9th last and to my letters to you of July 14th and July 31st, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of correspondence, as marked in the margin, regarding the return of the Degodia tribe to Abyssinian territory. You will see that, in addition to the assurances which Fitaurari Ayella gave to me before his departure to assume the Government of his Province, authority has now been given to him by the all-powerful Minister of War (Fitaurari Hapta Giorgis) to act as requested by me in my note.

Before giving this authority, Fitaurari Hapta Giorgis summoned for the purpose of consultation, two officers familiar with the district, who are actually in Addis Ababa, but who will shortly be returning to the Beran country.

I am forwarding copies of this correspondence to the Foreign Office and to His Majesty's Consul at Meqa, to whom I am also forwarding the letter for delivery to Fitaurari Ayella.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

your most obedient servant,

(signed) C.H. Bantink.

Acting Governor,

Colony and Protectorate of Kenya.

CONF.

Addis Ababa.

15th August 1936.

From Mr. Charles Bentinck,

His Britannic Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary.

To His Excellency Fitawari Nqata Giorgis,
Minister of War.

After Greetings.

I am now almost recovered from my accident and want to thank you for so kindly sending to enquire after my health. I am however not yet well enough to come over and see you being still confined to the house.

You will remember when last I saw you we spoke about the Boran Tribe and their difficulties in connection with their cattle watering at the frontier wells. You told me that Fitawari Agale was on his way to Mega and when he reached there he would be able to settle with the British Officer in charge all the difficult questions which might arise in the interest of the good relations between our two countries, which we both so much desire.

On that occasion I think I forgot to mention to you the question of the repatriation of the Degodia people who are as you know Abyssinians but who went over the British Frontier on account of severe treatment which they had received at the hands of certain Minor Abyssinian officials. The British Officials, as you know, desire to return these people to their own country as soon as a competent and trustworthy Senior Abyssinian Official is ready on the spot and able to make the necessary arrangements in concert with the local British Officer in charge for their reception on the Abyssinian side of the Border.

The Acting Governor of Kenya Colony has informed me that
the necessary

the necessary arrangements have been made on the British side so that the repatriation may take place next October.

Have I your authority to inform the Acting Governor in reply to his letter that Fitaruani Agale has the necessary authority from you to enable him to make the necessary arrangements for the reception of the Bagadia on the Abyssinian side of the Border? Have I also your authority to assure the Acting Governor of Kenya that reprisals will not be taken upon this tribe and that Junior Officials will not be allowed to oppress them with unduly heavy taxation? You will of course realize that reprisals taken upon this Tribe would merely result in it again immigrating into the British Colony and that this is why the Acting Governor of Kenya is anxious upon this point.

I am hopeful that in the interests of the best possible relations between our two countries which we are both so desirous of cultivating, you will authorize me to satisfy the Acting Governor of Kenya upon these various points which are causing him anxiety.

(Sgd) C. H. Bentinck.

From Fitsurari Hapta Giorgis,

Minister of War of the Ethiopian Government.

To Fitsurari Agale.

How are you? I am quite well thank God.

The Yabena tribe who are Abyssinian Government subject had crossed the frontier with their cattle and went into the British country. They said that they were maltreated by the local chiefs. I am now informed by His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa that the Yabena tribe who are staying in their country are to be returned back. When they return will you watch very carefully that nothing is demanded from them except the annual taxes. They have only to pay the future tax and they must not be held liable for arrears of past taxation. If they are made to pay more taxes than the regulations which I sent you, you, yourself will be held responsible for it.

Written at Addis Ababa this 14th day of Bahassei 1917.

(European date) 14th August 1925.)

Seal of Fitsurari Hapta Giorgis.

Minister of War.

20th August 1925

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Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 31st ultimo I transmit to you herewith copy of a letter which I addressed to Fitaurari Mapta Giorgis a few days ago regarding arrangement for the return of the Dogédia tribe to Abyssinian territory. The Fitaurari has now written another letter to Fitaurari Ayella in the sense desired by me, which I forward to you in the original (together with a translation) for delivery of the original to its destination.

I am forwarding copies of the enclosed correspondence to the Foreign Office and to the Government of Kenya.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sd/- C. P. G. G. G.

Mr. A. G. Miles

His Majesty's Consul,

Addis Ababa.