

1925

KENYA
UGANDA

225

C O
45128

FROM
FOREIGN OFFICE.

DATE
5th October 1925.

REC
RE 7 OCT 25

FOR CIRCULATION —

Mr. Mackie 10.10.25
Mr. Birtwiler 10.10.25
Mr.
Asst. U.S. of S.
Mr. Shalby

SUM OF MONEY DEPOSITED BY KANYAZMATCH LAKU.

Fwd copy of despatch from Addis Ababa regarding a sum deposited with the District Officer at Kakuma at the end of 1923. Ask for C.O. obsons on action proposed.

Perm. U.S. of S.
Part U.S. of S.
Secretary of State.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

30 Oct 1925
copy sent to Gen [unclear] 4 - NOV 1925 [unclear]

This incident was recounted recently by the [unclear] (it may have been in the course of the recent conference at [unclear]). When Mr. Hodson recently paid a visit to the [unclear] post at Kakuma, he was accompanied by an escort of Abyssinian troops. After his return from Kakuma, he [unclear] & it afterwards transpired that [unclear] had raided a British Turkana tribe and made off with the proceeds.

Subsequent Paper

Pr. 6 5011.7

All the variations that Mr
Bunick has been able to get out of Ras
Tafari is that K.L. will be detained
at Addis Ababa until the ^{plaintiffs} witnesses come
there to give evidence against him. (which
is presumably an impossibility) Mr
Bunick proposes to counter this by
demanding £22,14.2 belonging to K.L.
until K.L. goes to British territory and
surrender himself (which he will never
do).

The whole thing herefore seems to
be an unworkable impasse. No 70
has no objection to the retention of
the £22. I suppose we can only
agree to the proposal in para. 3 of
70. letter though perhaps we should
express the S.G.S. regret that so
flagrant a case of murder and robbery
in British territory by an Abyssinian
official cannot, in view of the
attitude of the Abyssinian Govt. be
brought to account.

that it is the Kenya Govt. not the
Uganda Govt. whose concern it is under
(Kakuma is of course a K.A.P. post
in the Turkana country which while
still technically part of Uganda, is
administered by Kenya)

Gen 10/10/50

If correct, the money should be returned (but
I think that is only £520. we
should refer to our records before about
Abyssinian money and say that the
Tafari should be informed that it is a request
for the British in the vicinity of the Abyssinian
administration so long as the money
is encouraged to stand unimpeded
in British territory.

Genl

10.10.50

S. 26.10

CPM

(Action under a view of 70/47525)

10.10.50

114.0

If any further communication
on this subject, please quote

No. J 2839/2839/1

Address—

not to any person by name.

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

C O
45128

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FOREIGN OFFICE.

S.W.1.

5th October, 1925.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to request you to lay before the Secretary of State for the Colonies the accompanying copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa regarding a sum of money deposited with the District Officer at Kakumar by Kanyazmatch Laku at the end of 1923.

2. Mr. Chamberlain sees no objection to the retention of the money until the facts have been satisfactorily investigated but he is advised that Ras Taffari is within his rights in desiring to try the case in person and in asking that evidence should be produced of the charges made

3. Subject to any observations which Mr. Amery may desire to make, Mr. Chamberlain proposes to approve the suggestion put forward in the third paragraph of Mr. Bentinck's despatch that he should inform Ras Taffari that the Government of Uganda or Kenya are withholding the money until Kanyazmatch Laku meets the charges of murder and robbery preferred against him and until compensation is paid to the people of Nakalale.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

John Murray

Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Addis Ababa

1st September 1925.

Sir.

I have the honour to report on the case of an Abyssinian named Kanyasmatch Laku, accused of murder and robbery in British Territory. The details of the case will be found in a letter from Mr. Russell to Ras Taffari dated December 13 1923, a copy of which I enclose, together with translation of the answer sent by Ras Taffari on April 8th, 1924, after Mr. Russell had sent him two reminders.

2. Kanyasmatch Laku and his party deposited their money with Mr. Masterman, the District Officer at Kakumar, who arranged to have the money transferred to Addis Ababa in dollars. A draft for the amount, £22.14. 2, was forwarded to His Majesty's Legation by His Majesty's Consul at Maji a year ago, but taken by brigands in a mail robbery. Mr. Hodson has now forwarded to me a duplicate cheque, but recommends that the money should be forfeited and returned to the Uganda Government as part compensation for the men's misdeeds.

3. As the money was deposited in British territory, I would suggest that I write and inform Ras Taffari that the Government of Uganda (or Kenya) are holding it up until Kanyasmatch Laku surrenders himself there to meet the charges of murder and robbery. The sum is comparatively small, but I am doubtful whether we are legally on strong ground in declining to hand it over. On the other hand, in view of the enclosed letter from Ras Taffari to Mr. Russell, I see no

likelihood

at. Hon.

Austen Chamberlain M. P.,

etc., etc., etc.

likelihood of compensation ever being extracted, nor is there the slightest chance of Kanyamatchi Laku ever proceeding to Uganda (or Kenya) to meet the charge against him.

4. I should be grateful to receive your instructions as to the course which I should adopt.

5. I am forwarding copies of this despatch to Nairobi, Entebbe and Maji.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

your most obedient,

humble servant,

(signed) C. H. Bentinok

To His Highness Ras Tafari.

His Apartment to the Throne of Ethiopia.

From Claud Russell Esquire.

His Britannic Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary.

After Greetings.

Your Highness:-

I have to call Your Highness' attention to the following report which I have received from Mr. Consul Hodson.

Recently Mr. Hodson went to Kakumar, a post in British Territory on the Taram River. At the request of Dejas Mukria Mr. Hodson took with him Kanyasmach Laku who is in charge of the Galleba country. The Dejasmatch wished Laku to see if there was an opening for trade in this country, also he wished him to make friends with the British officers. Laku took with him twelve men and some trade goods. The British officer at Kakumar received Kanyasmach Laku very well. He gave him a house, and food, and medicine for his men, because they were ill. And he helped him to sell his goods.

The Kanyasmach and his men remained a few days at Kakumar, and then they started to return to Maji. When he had proceeded a short distance he came to the villages of some British Turkana in the neighbourhood of Makalale. Your Highness will hardly believe that such infamous conduct is possible, but Kanyasmach Laku attacked these villages by night, and raided them. He murdered three men, and wounded many. He carried off three hundred cows, and seventy donkeys, besides sheep and goats. This shameful act was committed in British territory, where he had been received with friendship and as a guest.

I have to request Your Highness that orders may be immediately sent to Maji that Kanyasmach Laku and his men should be sent to Addis Ababa to answer for their conduct, and to receive the punishment they deserve.

(signed) Claud Russell.

Addis Ababa,

13th December 1925.

Extract from letter from Ras Tafari to Mr.
Russell dated April 6th 1934.

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"2nd. In your letter of the 13th December 1923, respecting Kanyasmach Laku I sent orders for him to come up, owing to the long distances of the country he has only lately arrived in Addis Ababa. On the 29th of Magabit (April 7th) he was examined before me on the charges mentioned in your letter. His reply was that he has never committed any murder, robbery or any other crime in British territory. The charges of murdering and raiding being a serious offence, I have to inform you that it is necessary that the plaintiffs should come up here to prove their charges, meanwhile Kanyasmach Laku will be detained here until his case is settled."

22825 Kanyama

- Mr. Cliffe 27/1/25
- Mr. Bentley 28/1/25
- Mrs. Baker 29/1/25
- Mr. J. Blackburn
- Mr. C. Davis
- Mr. G. Evans
- Mr. J. Nicholson
- Mr. Ormsby
- Mr. Amory

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 C. I.
 29 OCT
 1925

[Handwritten signature]

30 October 1925

DRAFT. To Conson.

Secretary of State
 Foreign Office

Sir,
 I am in to acknowledge the receipt of your letter 52880/2829/1 of the 5th of October enclosing a copy of a report from the District Officer with regard to the sum of money deposited with Mr. J. Washburn, District Officer at Kakumani in the Tuckava District by Kanyama Chaka at the end of 1923, and to request you to inform the Secretary of State that the Secretary of State has agreed with the proposal contained in the said letter to return the money to the said Kanyama Chaka and no charges against him.

- next to
 serial 43985

an application to

so flagrant a case of
murder and robbery in
British Territory. By an
Abyssinian official cannot,
in view of the attitude of the
Abyssinian Government, be
brought to account on H-
to this connection I am re
to request you to invite the
Secretary Chamberlain's attention
to the letter from this department 43985/25 Kenya
of the 12th of October with
regard to Abyssinian misrule,
and to ~~ask~~ ^{suggest} that Leo Taffari
may be informed that it is
difficult ^{for the Govt} to believe in the
Sincerity of the Abyssinian Administration
So long as this malefactor is
encouraged not to stand investigation
in British Territory
The question is one which
concerns the Government of Kenya
and not Uganda, as Kakumay
is in the Turkana Country which
is administered by Kenya.

appears (we shall record)

It appears from the letter
J/9208/1022/11 of the 12th of
October that Leo Taffari has been
any general information being
most often received is up to
Abyssinian misrule, but the
would suggest that in informing
Leo Taffari that the award will
be withheld, the Secretary should
also inform him that it is
difficult for the Govt to believe

DRAFT.

(So long as Leo Taffari is not...)

(Signed) C. STRAGHEY

10 55120/20

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- Mr. Clifton 17/10/25
- Mr. Macdougall 28/10/25
- Mr. Bottomley 29/10/25 f.s.

- Mr. B...
- Mr. J. ...
- Mr. C. ...
- Mr. G. ...
- Mr. J. ...
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore
- Mr. Amery

Amery
5017

DOWNING STREET.

October, 1925

80

Sir,

DRAFT. for consen.
 DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE
 FOREIGN OFFICE.

copy to Gen Comd (S) 4 - NOV 1925

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Amery to acknowledge the receipt of your letter J 2839/2839/1 of the 5th of October forwarding a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Adis Ababa with regard to a sum of money deposited with Lieutenant J. Masterman, 3rd Battalion King's African Rifles, when the Turkhana District acting as District Officer at Kakuma in/ by Kanyasmach Laku, an Abyssinian official, at the end of 1923, and to request you to inform Mr. Secretary Chamberlain that Mr. Amery agrees with the view that in the circumstances disclosed the money should be retained until Kanyasmach Laku meets the charges against

him.

copy corres. to Governor Kenya lf. ref. 4395b.

aim. Mr. Amery deprecates the fact that so flagrant a case of murder and robbery in British Territory by an Abyssinian official cannot, in view of the attitude of the Abyssinian Government, be brought to account. It appears from your letter J/3006/1111/1 of the 21st of October that Mr. Chamberlain deprecates any general representations being made at this moment in regard to Abyssinian misrule, but Mr. Amery would suggest that, in informing Ras Tafari that the money will be withheld, Mr. Pentinck should also inform him that it is difficult for His Majesty's Government to believe in the sincerity of the Abyssinian administration so long as this malefactor is encouraged not to stand investigation in British territory.

(47525/2b)

2. I am to observe that the question is one which concerns the Government of Kenya rather than the Government of Uganda,

as Kakuma is in the Turkhana
country which is administered by
Kenya.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) C. STRACHEY