

1924

KENYA
SOMALILAND

C. O.
44342
19 SEP 24

FOREIGN OFFICE.

DATE
18th September 1924.

CIRCULATION :-

ABYSSINIAN RAIDS INTO BRITISH TERRITORY.

Fwds copy of despatch to Addis Ababa
regarding delimitation of Abyssinia-Kenya frontier.

Perm U.S. of S.

Dist U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

The Kenya-Abyssinia border was the subject of much correspondence in the past, but for the last 12 years or so it has been in abeyance. The position is that we regard as the boundary a line which has never been accepted by the Abyssinian Government and over which we are liable to have dispute in important places. Thus, while the Sudan-Abyssinia border appears to be a matter simply for demarcation in order that posts may not be established in territory which might be the subject of dispute, the inclusion of the Kenya-Abyssinia border in the work of the Commission might mean that our hold over existing posts (particularly Moyale) would come seriously into question.

A further point of difference is that whereas to the west of Lake Rudolf the Abyssinian border has been crossed incessantly by raiding

parties

Recd - 8 OCT 1924

copy made vcopy above to Gen Kja (Conf) 29 OCT 1924
on 29/10/24

Subsequent Paper

46
48926

parties which have given serious trouble to our administration and have involved us in much military expenditure the border immediately to the east of Lake Rudolf has only on rare occasions been crossed by raiders. Our main trouble through raiders and refugees crossing the border has been far to the east, and consequently the determination of the boundary could not be confined to the neighbourhood of Lake Rudolf, but would have to extend for a distance of some 400 miles between that lake and the new Anglo-Italian boundary. This is a much larger proposition and the cost to the nation would be much greater.

On the other hand, if there is a chance of agreement with Abyssinia there is no reason why we should protract the uncertainty as to our northern boundary, and as presumably the Sudan-Abyssinia Commission will (on the British side) be a charge on Imperial funds, it would be convenient to take the opportunity and avoid having to go to the Treasury separately at a later date for the cost of the Kenya-Abyssinia frontier.

For the moment I think my drafts herewith will meet the case.

*Following on discussion,
Mr. Mackay has kindly suggested
to do. The main objection is
that*

In any further communication
on this subject, please quote

No. *E 7680/363/1*

and address—
not to any person by name,
but to—

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

C. O.
44342
19 SEP 24

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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.

Foreign Office.

September 18, 1924

Reference to previous correspondence:

Foreign Office letter no *E 7680/363/1* of September 17.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
<i>Despatch to, Hon. Charge d'affaires, Addis Ababa no 189 September 16</i>	<i>Abyssinian raids British territory</i>

Similar letter sent to

70. / 44343/24 Kenya

C. D.
7 OCT
8 Oct. 1924

And

copy to Sir Kyn Long (2) 29/10/24 on 20/10/24

*Direct
#8926*

DRAFT.

*The 6/9/24
70.*

MINUTE.

- Mr. Mackenzie 6/10/24*
- Mr. Bottomley 6.10.24*
- Mr.
- Mr. C. Davis,
- Mr. G. Grindle
- Mr. H. Road.
- Mr. J. Masterton Smith.
- Mr. I. Arnold.
- Mr. Thomas.

*See column
after discussion*

Sir, 70

I am etc to ask the etc of
 your letters No E 7680/313 /
 of the 17th & 18th of September
 regarding the proposal that
 a Boundary Commission be
 appointed to demarcate the
 Sudan and
 Abyssinia East and north
 of Lake Rudolf.

Mr Thomas is glad
 to learn that the question
 of the definition of the
 Sudan-Abyssinia ^{boundary} is being
 taken up. This action is
 in accordance with the
 main body resolution 11/27

the recent Frontier Conference
the report ~~was~~ of which
was sent to me ~~to~~ under
cover of his letter from his
Sept 9th September, &
the work is of obvious
importance as a step towards
the settlement of the
difficulties of military
administration which now
exists in those regions

Gen
3744
Kaura

2 As regards the suggestion
that the determination of
the Kenya - Abyssinia boundary
should be included in
work of the Commission
and to enquire whether it
is proposed that the whole

the recent Frontier Conference
the report ~~was~~ of which
was sent to me ~~to~~ under
cover of his letter from his
date of 12th September, &
the work is of obvious
importance as a step towards
the settlement of the
difficulties of military
administration which now
exists in those regions

Gen
3744
Kanga

As regards the suggestion
that the determination of
the Kenya - Abyssinia boundary
should be included in
work of the Commission,
and to emphasize what has
is proposed that the whole

of the boundary between Kamer
 & Abyssinia (i.e. from the

near East corner of Lake

Rudolf to the proposed new

Anglo-Italian frontier) or

only a section of his ~~boundary~~

boundary ^{immediately East} ~~at the height of the~~

of Lake Rudolf, etc. fall

within the scope of the

proposed Commission. If the

latter is intended, I am to

point out that in recent

years at all events the

movements of raiding parties

DRAFT.

MINUTE.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Sir C. Davis.

Sir G. Grindle.

Sir H. Read.

Sir J. Macartney Smith.

Lord Arnold.

Mr. Thomas.

the boundary of the
 neighborhood of Lake
 Rudolf have ~~been~~
~~theoretical~~ been
 carried mainly to the ~~west~~
~~west~~ of western side
 of Lake Rudolf. It is not
 evident however that the
 demarcation of the boundary
 immediately east of Lake
 Rudolf would have any
 bearing on the question of
 the control of trading parties
 and it is not clear that
 the question of demarcating
 the boundary immediately east
 of Lake Rudolf could ~~be~~

~~in fact~~
~~fact~~ be taken as
 separate from the
 question of demarcating
 the whole of the course
 Abyssinia boundary

DRAFT.

MINUTE.

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Sir C. Davis.
- Sir G. Grindley.
- Sir H. Read.
- Sir J. Masterion Smith.
- Lord Arnold.
- Mr. Thomas.

of, on the other hand
 it is unwise to take
 up the question of
 delimiting the whole of
 the boundary between Kenya
 & Abyssinia it is evident
 in view of the long history
 of this question & the
 attitude which has been taken
 and has always been taken

regard to the adoption of

the proposed line that

various points of considerable

importance to the Kenya

Govt. will be likely to arise,
in connection therewith.

It may be, however, that

the present will be as good

an opportunity as could be

expected for clearing up this

long outstanding question.

3 Mr Thomas proposes to

consult the Govt. of Kenya

on the whole question so far

as it affects Kenya, but he

will be glad to have in the

first instance, Mr Ramsay

MacDonald's views upon the

point which is raised

above. I am also to

enquire whether the

cost of the British Section

of the Sudan. Abyssinia

Boundary Commission will

be borne by Imperial funds

& what arrangement

Mr Mac Donald has in

view in regard to the

Constitution of the British

Section.

DRAFT.

MINUTE.

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Sir C. Davis.
- Sir G. Grindle.
- Sir H. Read.
- Sir J. Masterton Smith.
- Lord Arnold.
- Mr Thomas.


G. GRINDLE