

1924

KENYA

C. O.
48924
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RECEIVED
SIGN OFFICE.

DATE

16th October 1924.

RELATION :-

ITALIAN POLICY IN JUBALAND.

Fwds copy of despatch from Rome reporting interview with newly appointed High Commr for Jubaland in which latter indicated policy with regard to development of ceded Territory. This included proposals to procure labour from Madras. Copy of despatch has been forwarded to I.O.

Previous Paper

MINUTES

See on 10/51454

Cont 10/11/24

map Jubaland

Subsequent Paper

49107
Gas (Sudan)
to be sent separately

14 NOV 1924

HA

In any further communication
on this subject, please quote

C No. *C 15403/P248/22*

and address—
not to any person by name.

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

C. O.
48924
17 OCT 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 copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office.

16th October, 1924.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Foreign Office letter No C 13588/P248/22

of 26th August 1924

Description of Enclosure

Name and Date

Subject

*in Am Representative
at Rome No 8507
7th October 1924*

*Policy of High Commissioners
for Jubaland*

*India Office
15th October 1924*

Similar letter sent to

British Embassy,
Rome.

7th October, 1924.

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Sir,

With reference to Mr. Kennard's despatch No. 826 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report that Signor Carreda Zoli, the newly appointed High Commissioner for Jubaland, called upon me this morning. He is leaving for Somaliland on or about the 18th of this month.

Signor Zoli, who gave me the impression of being frank and reasonable, explained to me in some detail his ideas with regard to the development of Jubaland. He said that the country had great agricultural possibilities, especially in the direction of cotton growing, but that the chief obstacle was the difficulty of procuring labour. The Somalis were not adapted for the purpose and it was necessary to look for labour outside. He desired therefore to import colonists from British India, following the example of the Duke of the Abruzzi, whose action in this respect had met with considerable success. Signor Zoli proposed, if there was no objection, to enter into direct communication with the Government of Madras in order to procure labour from the Malabar, whose natives were best adapted to resist the Somali climate. He desired to bring to Somaliland not merely labourers but whole families, indeed whole village organisations, which could settle

down.....

Right Honourable,
J. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P.
etc., etc., etc.

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down and live happily, observing all their own customs, rites, distinctions of caste, etc. These people could, of course, remain British Indian subjects, and if His Majesty's Government thought of appointing some consular officer at Kisumu in order to look after their interests, such an appointment would be welcome. Signer Zeli added, for our private information, that if there were any communities under the Government of Madras which had given trouble from a political point of view, he would be glad to take them as their activities would present no danger in Jubaland.

I said that I could give him no idea whatever as to how such a proposal would be viewed by His Majesty's Government or the Government of India, but that I would report it to you with a view to an answer being communicated to him through the Italian Ministry of the Colonies. He appeared cognizant of the problems which have arisen owing to the presence of the Indian colonists in Kenya.

Signer Zeli considered that the cultivation of cotton in Jubaland offered great possibilities. The Juba River deposited a silt resembling in fertility that of the Nile. The soil was favourable. The economic failure of the Duke of the Abruzzi's scheme in Somaliland was due not to the difficulty of growing cotton as such cultivation had, on the contrary, met with success, but to the immense cost of constructing communications and of transporting material such as stone and wood which had to be brought great distances.....

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distances. Every kilo of stone for the construction of a barrage cost a lira by the time it reached its destination. Signor Zelli's idea was that all the preliminary works, roads, barrages, canals, etc., should be carried out by the Italian Government, although a loan would doubtless have to be raised to meet the cost. When these preliminaries had been accomplished the cotton scheme would be presented as an industrial enterprise. If he could enlist in it British interest and capital so much the better, as nothing would be more welcome. I listened to all that Signor Zelli had to say and thanked him for his interesting communication.

With reference to the first two paragraphs of Mr. Kennard's despatch No. 224, it is reported here that Signor De Vecchi will shortly be appointed Italian Minister to Mexico and that he will be succeeded as Governor of Italian Somaliland by General De Bono, the present chief of the Public Security Department in Rome.

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

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Sd.) R. Graham.

SECRETARY
GENERAL

10th October, 1924.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Murray Macdonald to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before Lord Olivier, copy of a despatch received from His Majesty's Ambassador at Rome, relative to a conversation with Signor Caruso with the newly appointed High Commissioner for Jubaland, relative to the development of that territory.

1. I am to enquire whether Lord Olivier would desire that any communication should be made to the Italian Government with regard to Signor Caruso's proposal.

2. A copy of the enclosed despatch has been also sent to the Colonial Office.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) HAROLD NICOLSON