

1925

KENYA

C. O.  
35712  
5 AUG 25

FROM  
D.A.G.'s Desk  
Northcote  
Conf  
108

DATE  
10<sup>th</sup> July 1925

FOR CIRCULATION :-  
Mr. Leachly 11/8/25  
Mr. Bullock 11/8/25  
Mr.  
Asst. U.S. of S.  
K. S. ...  
Perm' U.S. of S.  
Part' U.S. of S.  
Secretary of State.

Kenya - Abyssinia Boundary  
and administration of N.W. Kenya  
States reasons for considering it desirable  
to press for re-alignment of - your further  
infirm as to raids and lawlessness. Is in  
agreement with Mr. Johnson on his contention  
that diplomatic pressure would be preferable to  
the app't of a Commission, and be grateful if  
you would make representations to this effect

Previous Paper  
22007

MINUTES  
See also 35621 which it will be  
seen that the question of delimiting the  
Sudan-Kenya boundary drops out, and that the  
matter ~~has~~ been dealt with as one of  
administration.

Copy C.O. - 25 AUG 1925  
Answered Conf (10) 25 Aug 25  
(with copy above)

As regards the two other boundaries:-  
(a) Kenya-Abyssinia. The question of  
delimiting this boundary now drops. (to be dealt with separately for the next year)  
(b) Sudan-Abyssinia. It is suggested  
that diplomatic pressure would be preferable  
to the appointment of a Commission, but no  
further action need be considered until we know  
the result of the despatch to Mr. Bullock (last  
enclosure in 22007) in which he was instructed  
to report whether the present time was  
favourable for approaching the Abyssinian  
Government

Subsequent Paper  
D.A.G. 38364  
Mga

X. Leachly here has never been any question  
of delimiting the Kenya-Sudan boundary. What was under  
discussion was the recommendation of the Kilgum Commission  
that the British should be asked to send a Commission  
to investigate the matter.

Government with regard to the appointment of a Commission.

? send a copy of this despatch to the ~~Commission~~ <sup>3a</sup> ~~Commission~~ <sup>that is view</sup>  
pointing out that the question of the Kenya-Abyssinia  
boundary now drops, and as at (b) in regard to the  
Sudan-Kenya boundary.

11/18/25

to proceed? (The note in para 3 is  
unexpedient - and, incidentally, unnecessary)

the Sudan, Kenya, ~~India~~  
unappreciative & I suppose to be  
nothing as a good example

Col. 11.8.25

It is in the case of the Kenya back of a sand deposit, due  
to wind action, & considered high altitudes. It is filling in  
the S. of S. & is covered, but a deposit - just out of the way - certain  
heights, and pressure to get the S. of S. at the back.

to proceed C.S. 18/8/25  
C.S.

KENYA.

No. 108.

CONFIDENTIAL.
 GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
 NAIROBI,  
 KENYA.

35712

10th July, 1925.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your telegram of 1st May on the subject of the Kenya-Abyssinian boundary East of Lake Rudolf and to inform you, that after consulting Mr. Arnold Hodson, His Majesty's Consul for South West Abyssinia, the Acting Governor has formed the opinion that it is undesirable at any rate at the present time to press for the realignment of this boundary as he considers that attention should be concentrated on the more important matters of the final settlement of the Sudan Abyssinian Boundary to the West and North West of Lake Rudolf and the institution on both sides thereof of effective administration.

2. You were recently addressed on these subjects in my despatch (Confidential) No. 70 of the 21st of May in which I reported the occurrence of two raids by Dabossa tribesmen. I take this opportunity of mentioning the following incidents which have been related, among others, by Mr. Hodson as indicative of the lawlessness and lack of control which exists amongst the tribes inhabiting the country North and North West of Lake Rudolf.

(1). In early 1924 a strong party of Gallaba tribesmen (Abyssinian subjects) penetrated as far South as the River Turkwell capturing many head of stock and killing numerous Turkana natives:

(ii).

RIGHT HONOURABLE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL L. C. M. S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON S. W.

(ii). Shortly after this, Kenyazmatch Laku, having been sent on a official mission by the Governor of Maji Province and having been entertained as the guest of the King's African Rifles officers stationed at Kakuma, left in secret and met 60 armed Abyssinian riflemen with whom he then proceeded brutally to murder many Turkana natives, escaping with large herds of looted stock into Abyssinian Territory.

(iii). On two occasions this year Mr. [redacted] mail runners have been murdered between Maji and Kakumar by Gallaba tribesmen and important letters have been lost.

Major C.H.Fowle, M.C., 3rd King's African Rifles, has reported that on a recent tour in Turkana he saw the skulls and bones of women and children who were killed by raiders of the Marille (Abyssinian) tribe in the Labur Mountains (Turkana) in July 1924. He is of opinion that these victims were killed in their huts.

Information is now to hand that victims of the raids reported in my despatch under reference were as follows. First raid: killed 10 men 96 women and children; wounded 41 women and children; Losses in cattle 2000, Second raid: Killed 5 men, 3 women and 17 children.

Lieut. McConnell personally counted the Turkana dead after the first raid and Major Fowle saw the wounded women and children numbering 41 in the KAKUMA hospital: the youngest wounded was a child of about two years old. The Inspector General, King's African Rifles, during his inspection at KAKUMA last year also saw these wounded, and could give first hand evidence of their condition.

3. Your despatch (Confidential) of the 27th May has now been received and I may state that this Government views with much gratitude the steps taken to obtain a solution to our troubles to the North West of the Colony

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22007  
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as evinced from the enclosure addressed to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; I am instructed to convey to you an expression of the Acting Governor's thanks for your action in this matter.

4. I annex a copy of Mr. Arnold Hodson's letter (confidential) of 2nd April and am desired by the Acting Governor to state that he is in entire agreement with Mr. Hodson in his contention that diplomatic pressure would be preferable to the appointment of a Commission, and he will be grateful if representations are made by you to this effect.

J.M.C. Meill  
(f) of 2nd  
April.

It is hoped that the present negotiations will prove to be the beginning of the end of the disorders such as I have given examples of above; I venture to repeat that they are enabled solely by lack of administration beyond the borders of this Colony and that there can be no end to this murder and rapine until the spheres of administration of the Sudan and Abyssinia have been defined and effectively occupied.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

*G. and ...*

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

58

BRITISH CONSULATE,

MAJI,

S.W. ETHIOPIA.

2nd April, 1925.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. A. 539/VI/43 dated the 23rd of December last.

I have the honour to refer you to my despatch addressed to His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Addis Ababa, dated the 28th of October 1923, a copy of which was forwarded to you. I can only reiterate what I have mentioned before.

I am firmly of opinion that a Boundary Commission in its ordinary accepted sense would be a mistake. If the Abyssinian members ever arrived, which is doubtful, they would claim the Boma Plateau, Mera-a-Kippi and the terrain right down to Kala far away in Turkana. They would be entirely unamenable to reason. An impasse would be reached. Nothing would be done. A lot of valuable time and money would be wasted.

Even if there was a reasonable Abyssinian amongst them he would be far too frightened to accede to any of our requests, for if he did he would know very well that he would afterwards be accused of having sold the country to the British.

The only solution I can suggest is that the Foreign Office by diplomatic force the Abyssinian Government to sign a document saying that the boundary in the South-West is so and so.

E. B. DENHAM, ESQ. . C.M.G.  
 etc., \* etc., etc..

The line we require is well known to the different Governments concerned and I include that it is outside the Province of this despatch for me to go into it in detail.

If the Abyssinian Government sign this document then a commission could be appointed to delimitate it exactly and erect beacons where necessary. Most of the (boarded) is perfectly clear and distinct. Most of all we have the natural boundary formed by the Akobo River. The next piece would have to be beaconed i. e. from Lelile to Kutul Berine Mts. This leaves the conspicuous mountain groups of Boma and Meine well in our territory. From Kutul Berine to Tamadur Mt. it would, perhaps, be advisable to erect a couple of beacons. Between Tamadur Mt. and Tid another beacon or two. From Tid Mt. to the Kibish River we should require several beacons. Thence the boundary runs down the Kibish river to Sanderson's Gulf. As the river becomes indistinct towards the end this would have to be carefully delimited. It is of importance as marking the line between the Gallaba and the Turkana.

The commission could then cross over to the East side of Rudolf and erect one large beacon to denote the boundary on the shores of the Lake.

I cannot understand why it is thought necessary for the Commission to proceed any further. The boundary between here and the Juba has been ratified by Menalik. It is perfectly well known to the Abyssinians and has been beaconed in parts, anyhow enough to satisfy any legal quibbles which might arise. I have actually travelled from the Juba to Rudolf and know it well.

Leaving Rudolf you pass over terribly  
-difficult-

difficult country, quite waterless, to the Southern end of Lake Stefanie. En passant this is not a Lake now but a puddle. The old lake bed is quite distinct however. From here the line runs through Burrchuma Mt. which <sup>in</sup> the Galla language means a chair. Just North of this there is an Abyssinian village on the top of Hichenni. From Burrchuma the line is quite clear being marked by conspicuous rocks such as ~~Abba~~ Abba, Kakulia etc., till Furroli Mt. is reached. This mountain is so conspicuous and striking that it is distinctly seen from Burrchuma. Passing on from Furroli the boundary is well known to Reka Hill just below Gaddaduma. The question of the Gurrar Wells is doubtful. We have always claimed them and in this case possession is nine-tenths of the law. If the Abyssinians dispute this let us put the onus on them to prove their case. The next mountain on the border Kuffele is quite clear. From here to the Daus River it is admitted the boundary is vague and indefinite. It is waterless track and it is a question for your Government to decide whether it is worth the trouble to beacon it. This particular piece of the boundary has given us very little trouble as there is no Abyssinian settlement in the neighbourhood, with the exception of the post at Gaddaduma. When the Daus is reached the boundary is perfectly clear as it follows the river.

My main reason why I do not want to see the question of the Southern boundary re-suscitated is that Noyal-e is in Abyssinian territory. Of that there is no shadow of doubt. If an Abyssinian commission came they would probably have their own surveyor who would at once make capital out of this and quite rightly from their point of view. This



would put us in a very awkward position as we could never under any possible circumstances give up this famous outpost. I am sure you will understand these remarks refer to the proposal to delineate the present boundary. If it is determined to alter the boundary, so desirable in many places, the whole question comes under a different category.

In the former case my advice would be to let sleeping dogs lie.

Returning to the South-Western boundary I am convinced in my own mind that the Abyssinian Government do not want to see it defined. The present position suits them well as it affords an excuse, a very inadequate one I think, for their constant raids. I notice in the Foreign Office despatch No. E. 7680/363/1 date not inserted in my copy that Ras Taffari stated it was difficult to ascertain whether violation of the frontier really occurred because it has not been properly delimited. If I may say so without lese majeste I imagine His Imperial Highness had a twinkle in his eye when he made this remark.

If a commission is appointed I would suggest :-

(1) That the members meet at the Akobo Post on a specified date to be decided by the Governor - General of the Sudan.

(2- That the personnel consist of :-  
One officer from the Sudan, Kenya and Uganda. One qualified Surveyor. One Medical Officer and His Majesty's Consul for S.W. Abyssinia who would act as interpreter.

(3) That the transport consist of donkeys.

(4) That the question of supplies, loads, - water-tank

water-tanks etc., be carefully worked out beforehand bearing in mind that lightness and compact loads are an essential thing owing to the terrain. His Majesty's Consul would have his own transport and personnel .

(5) That if the commission is proceeding to the East of Rudolf the donkeys be exchanged for camels.

(6) That a month would have to be chosen when the long grass has been burnt on the Akobo River. Probably January would be the best month.

(7) That the Abyssinian members of the commission if they arrive, and having arrived if they will face the Akobo River which they dread, proceed with His Majesty's Consul to the meeting place.

In conclusion I warn the different Governments concerned that the Abyssinian members would probably run out of food after a couple of weeks. They would have no water-tanks and in this respect be a nuisance. It is the Abyssinian custom when travelling to seize from the local natives what they want. There being no natives in most places on the border they would be unable to do this.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

Sgd/ Arnold Hodson.

H. M. CONSUL.

351  
C. D.  
R 21 AUG  
D 24

Mr. Jewell 20/ 8/25  
Mr. Allen To  
Mr. Mackie 29/8/25  
Mr. Strachey.

Downing Street,  
25 August, 1925.

Sir J. Shackburgh.  
Sir C. Davis.  
Sir G. Grindle.  
Sir J. Masterton Smith.  
Mr. Ormsby-Gore.  
Mr. Amery.

Sir,

With reference to your letter

No. J1265/314/1 of the 14th May and con-

connected correspondence relating to the

demarcation of the frontiers between  
and the (Abyssinia and)

Abyssinia, Sudan and Kenya. I am direc-

ted by Mr. Secretary Amery to transmit

to you, to be laid before Mr. Secretary

Chamberlain, the accompanying copy of a

despatch from the Officer Administering

the Government of Kenya on the subject,

in which is enclosed a copy of a letter

from His Majesty's Consul at Maji.

2. In view of what is stated in  
the Despatch  
paragraph 1 of the despatch, and in the

enclosure, Mr. Chamberlain will, no

doubt, agree that the question of the

delimitation of the Kenya-Abyssinian

boundary should be postponed for the

present.

3. With regard to the boundary

between

(22007)  
4647/25 Ugd  
20/

copy to Gen Conf (2)

DRAFT.

U. S. of State,  
Foreign Office.

Conf. 10A 10th July

between Sudan and Abyssinia, <sup>the Army assumes</sup> ~~I am to suggest~~

that no further action need be considered until  
a reply has been received to the despatch

addressed to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires  
<sup>on the 13 May</sup> at Addis Ababa, <sup>was</sup> a copy of which enclosed in

your letter referred to above.

I am, etc.,

*(Sgd.) Harold T. Allen*  
for Under Secretary of State.