

1925

KENYA

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FROM  
A.G.'S DEP NORTHCOOTE.  
892

DATE  
14th July 1925.

FOR CIRCULATION:—

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

CESSION OF JUBALAND. CEREMONY.

Fwds report of ceremony, which took place  
on 29th June.

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

MINUTES

Previous Paper

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KENYA.

No.892.



C.O.  
36749  
11 AUG 25  
NAIROBI,  
KENYA.

14th July, 1925.

Sir,

I have the honour to confirm my telegram No.290 of the 29th of June in which I informed you that the Cession of the Province of Jubaland to Italy took place at 9.45 a.m. on that day.

2. His Excellency Signor Zoli landed at Kismayu at 9 a.m. on the 29th June and was met by a guard of honour of the 3rd King's African Rifles under Captain A. L. Kent-Lemon.

The Cession ceremony took place in Government Square whither Signor Zoli and his staff were accompanied by Mr. J.O.W.Hope, C.M.G., as Senior Commissioner, Jubaland, and where guards of honour of Italian Troops and of the 3rd King's African Rifles were drawn up.

3. On arrival of Signor Zoli and Mr. Hope, proclamations were read in the English and Italian languages; the British flag was then lowered and the Italian flag hoisted while the guards of honour presented arms.

4. I attach an extract of a Press report of the Ceremony.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

*J. A. Northcote*  
GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL L.C.M.S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET,  
LONDON S. W.

## SESSION OF JUBALAND.

### Simple but Impressive Ceremony at Kismayu.

#### CHANGING THE FLAGS.

#### British Hand Over to Italians:

(FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

##### Kismayu.

On June 29, after many delays and postponements, Jubaland was finally handed over to Italy in accordance with the treaty drawn up last year. Thus Britain has paid her debt contracted in 1913 when Italy entered the World War on her side.

The ceremony at Kismayu, the Headquarters of the Province, was simple but impressive. Unfortunately it took place at the time of one of the worst monsoons known at Kismayu and the Coast, and the transportation of the troops of occupation from Mogadiscio to Kismayu and the evacuation of the British troops, was carried out under the worst possible conditions.

At the High Commissioner for Trans Juba, Signor Zoli arrived at Kismayu with his staff on the "Roma" on June 28. The disembarkation of Italian troops was at once begun, and the main street of Kismayu was lined by a company of K.A.R. under command of Capt. A. L. Kent Lemon, while detachments of each battalion marched through to a camp prepared for them behind the town.

Signor Zoli remained on board until the 29th on which day he landed with his staff at 9.0 a.m., and was met at the Customs House by Mr. J. O. W. Hope, C.M.G., the Senior Commissioner, Lt. Col. L. S. King, R.E., O.B.E., British Commissioner, Capt. C. G. Usher, M.C. the Acting D.C., and other officers.

A guard of Honour was provided by the 3rd K.A.R. outside the Customs House, who fully maintained their excellent reputation for smartness. Having inspected the Guard of Honour, Signor Zoli shook hands with a large number of Soudanese pensioners who were drawn up behind the troops. After a short interval the two Commissioners proceeded together to the square where a flag staff had been erected for the purpose of changing the flags. On either side of the flag staff were drawn up the K.A.R. and Italian troops who saluted them on arrival.

##### A PLEDGE OF FRIENDSHIP.

Mr. Hope then made the following speech:

"Your Excellency, In pursuance of a treaty between the United Kingdom and Italy signed at London on the 15th day of July, 1924, I have already been instructed by my Government to hand over to you as representative of the Italian Government this portion of African Territory as defined in the aforementioned treaty.

I commend to Your Excellency the chiefs and people of the Oga den and Herti Somali, and of the Wagosha and Bajun whose loyalty to my Government has been proved also the Arab and Indian Communities, in the interests of whom the rule of the country is mainly due, and who have always proved law abiding and industrious. I also bring to your notice, the Swedish Mission which has worked under great hardship for many years to the moral and practical benefit of the population.

The formal exchange of territory will be signalled in a few minutes by the exchange of national flags on the flagstaff which stands before you.

Beneath this formal act of ceremony lies an inner pledge of friendship which exists between our respective nations, a friendship matured during the time of trouble through which we passed together.

In conclusion I wish Your Excellency every success in the development and administration of this Territory."

##### THE FLAGS CHANGED.

At the end of the speech the British flag flying on the flag staff was hauled down by Capt. E. Scott Higgins and a general salute was sounded; simultaneously all British Flags on Government buildings, including the Sultan of Zanzibar's flag on the Fort, were lowered.

The Italian flag was then run up on all flagstaffs and the Italian troops sounded their general sal-

ute and two mountain guns started firing a salute of 100 guns on the town.

Signor Zoli then read a speech in Italian and at the end of his speech shook hands with Mr. Hope beneath the flag.

##### BENEATH THE FLAG.

This ended the ceremony and the two Commissioners left the square together with their staffs, and afterwards an official luncheon was given at Mr. Hope's house.

At 4 o'clock the principal chiefs of the Somalis, Arabs, Bajuns and Wagosha were presented to Signor Zoli and after the Baraza all the British community were entertained to tea at Signor Zoli's house on the front.

The next day the K.A.R. and Police embarked and the remaining administrative customs and medical staffs on the "Roma." Signor Zoli came to the pier to see the troops march by, and complimented Capt. Kent Lemon on the smart appearance of his men.

With the sailing of the "Roma" ended a small but important incident in the history of the British Empire.