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NORTHEY, SIR, R

454

POSITION ON ABYSSINIAN FRONTIER.

1920

2nd April

Last previous Paper.

4370 KAR

5254. CAP

Recommends that F.O. be asked to inform Abyssinian Govt that H.M. Govt reserve right to reoccupy Gaddaduma at any time if necessary and that Boundary Commission should meet Abyssinian Representatives to fix Anglo-Abussinian boundary. Mr Mittermaster and Mr Hope shd be apptd on this commission. Proposes to issue instrns on return that patrols may pursue raiding bands across border.

Li H. Reed. Sir J. Fiddes.

The main question is whether we are to demand territory (the Bora country, or Sir S. Northey suggests) as compensation for lost raids. I still think that it would be better to offer the Bora country for pieces of Abyssinia out of all proportion to that it would give us, but that is for F.O.

F.O.

? Copy of 14370, etc, etc to be sent generally - and for views on a rearrangement of boundary, some to give us Bora - some that in Abyssinia. Got reply of 2 in a private way. But we propose to authorize the Sec. to proceed in accordance with C.O.S. 6/4/20

Subsequent Paper.

222

proceed in accordance with C.O.S. 6/4/20
shown [unclear] H. J. D. [unclear]

Copy comes from 684 cons 17 May 20
1208.7

77 Charles Manning Esq.
2nd April. 1920

17311

RE-

PR 20

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your despatch N^o 370/1920 of 31st ult. on the subject of the Abyssinian Frontier.

2. I recommend that the Foreign Office be asked to inform the Abyssinian Government that His Majesty's Government must reserve to themselves the right to reoccupy Gaddaduma at any time, should occasion require: indeed, at times, this is the only course open to us if we are to protect our tribesmen from the attacks of lawless bands of marauders, who act, if not with the direct connivance of the so-called Abyssinian Government Officials and troops, at any rate without any restraint from them.

3. It should once more be made clear to the Abyssinian Government that such a course on our part would never be necessary, if they on their part enforced law and order on the frontier.

4. The Boran trouble will never be settled until the Central Government at Adis Ababa can effectively control its subordinates on the Southern Borderland. But there is more even than this affecting the situation, in that a Boundary between Nations places the grazing grounds of Nomadic African Tribes on either side can never be satisfactory: such tribes are indeed difficult enough to administer without dual control.

The Boran Refuges will never voluntarily, nor permanently, return to Abyssinian Territory without satisfactory safeguards; these cannot be obtained from a Government which exercises so little influence on its frontier Districts.

Compulsory repatriation of these nations would be a reversal of our policy, which, rightly or wrongly, for ten years past, has been to help and assist these wretched people and their cattle.

I believe the only solution is agreement on a frontier line which will either give us full control of the whole Boran country, and occupation of all the wells they use: the cession of the Territory involved may easily be demanded as compensation for the many acts of aggression and spoliation committed during the past few years by the Abyssinians and Tigres, for which the Government at Addis Ababa must be held responsible. 456

I recommend that the Foreign Office be asked to demand this, and that the same Boundary Commission which must be appointed soon, to demarcate the new Anglo-Italian Boundary should also meet Abyssinian Representatives to fix a new Anglo-Abyssinian Boundary Line, which will safeguard the interests of border tribes.

I suggest that both Mr. Kellerman and Mr. Hope be appointed to serve on such commission.

4. Meanwhile, unless Lord Milner wishes me to adopt a different policy, I propose, on my return to the Protectorate, to issue instructions, which will ensure, not only that our Patrols will pursue marauding bands across the Border when hot on their track, but that, at the discretion of the officer on the spot, they may also pounce on offenders across the border who may have raided on our side but have crossed the border before detection.

Such action would be a strong deterrent to raids.

5. I agree generally with the remarks made by the Acting Governor in Paras 9 to 12 of his despatch: I have already touched on most of these points. There is, and always has been, a general trend of native movement down East and Central Africa from the North, Southwards and Westwards: nomadic tribes, with camels, cattle, sheep, and goats, seeking new pastures: at present we are faced by a steady convergence towards West Kenya viz. Turkana from the North-west, Boran and Galla from the North, and Somalis from the North-East - causing a congestion on the ^{PLAINS} ~~Western~~ Nyoro which must be stopped.

I have the honor to be Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Edward Northey

Secretary of State
Colonies

Dunnig St. 211.

Mi/17311/20
East of Prot.

20 457

24 April 1920

Sir,

DRAFT.

I am to transmit to you to be laid before Earl Curzon of Kedleston the acc. copies of correspondence with Sir Edward Northey and the

Amery 22/6/23

MINUTE.

Mr. B. 22/4

Mr. Parkinson. 22/4/20

Mr. G. Amery 22.4.20

Mr. Grindle.

Sir H. Lambert.

Sir H. Read.

Sir G. Fiddes.

Col. Amery.

Lord Milner.

O. A. G. of the East of Prot. regarding the

situation on the frontier between the E. A. P. & Abyssinia.

2. Lord Milner concurs therein

generally with the views expressed by Sir Edward

Northey, and Sir Charles

- 13 Feb. (14370)
- 31 March (14370)
- 2nd Ap. (17311)

Copy for 684 Cons 17 May 20 Gov/20222/2

in action on 17/07/20

Bowring, and would be glad

to receive any observations which

Lord Curzon may wish to make

as to regarding a re-arrangement

of the boundary between the S. A. P.

the Abyssinia, so as to bring ^{the} Boran

into within the sphere of British

administration.

3. I am to request that, if Lord Curzon has no

the Abyssinia Conf. may be

informed ~~early~~ that His Majesty's

Government must reserve to themselves

the right to reoccupy Gondar as

any time, should occasion require.

4. I am to add that Lord Milner

proposes to authorize Sir Edward Northey,

to proceed as suggested in the fifth

~~paragraph of his letter of the 14th~~ ~~to the~~ ~~14th~~ ~~to the~~

paragraph of his letter, ~~if Lord Curzon~~

~~instructions~~ ~~which~~ ~~are~~ ~~not~~.

J. G.

G. G.