

1921

(16)

KENYA

C. O.  
26175

DATE

2017

27 MAY 21

INITIALS

SUBJECT

SITUATION IN AFRICA

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G.O.S. 27.5.21

is a prologued — C.O.  
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at once  
A. J. H.  
J. S. H.

Subsequent Paper

Handwritten signature

In any further communication  
on this subject, please quote

RA 2297/464/1

address—  
not to copy for any reason.

The Under-Secretary of State,  
Foreign Office,  
London, E.C. 4.

C O  
26175  
21 MAY 21

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his  
compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for  
the Colonies and in connection of the Secretary of State,  
on the enclosed paper.

MA-10-141

Semi-annual report sent to War Office

27/204/1)

Adis Araba,

April 12th, 1921.

sent to Cairo.

My Lord,

The capture of Iij Yasu, reported in my despatch to Your Lordship No. 42 of the 5th ultimo, does not appear to have relieved the anxieties of the Abyssinian Government. On the contrary, the problem of his disposal has added to their worries, and seems to occupy their attention to the exclusion of all else. The military expeditions to which I referred in my despatch have now developed into a considerable concentration of the armed population designed by the Central Government to test the loyalty of certain provincial governors, and to give Ras Taffari an opportunity for a display of power. The Harrar army is encamped outside Adis Ababa. Ras Hailu of Gojjam is a few days march from the Capital. Ras Kassa has left for his province to collect his men. Ras Taffari and the Iturari Hapta Giorgis leave here with their own forces next week. It is intended that the several forces shall assemble at Warra Hailu, about one hundred miles north of this, where the ex-Emperor, coming south in charge of Ras Gugsa Araya, will be met. The final decision as to his disposal will then be taken. Ras Taffari is anxious to see Iij Yasu sent to his own capital of Harrar where he feels he can be sure of the prisoner's safe detention.

Others/

Right Honourable

Earl Curzon of Kedleston, K.G.,

etc., etc., etc.

Others, and among them, I understand, the Emperor, wish him brought to Adis Ababa, because, without being himself hostile to Ras Tafari, they see in this a blow to his power.

It is perhaps worth noting that these troops were not assembled without manifestations of dissatisfaction. The armed forces of Abyssinia are a national army in the true sense, and any move against it affects the entire population. I hear the present call to arms provoked widespread expressions of discontent, and enquiries as to the needs and purpose of the expedition, seeing that foreign invasion is not threatened. It is easy to discover in this a spirit of general unrest of a sort hitherto rare in Abyssinia. But whether it be this, or merely such natural insubordination as appears when authority is weak, I am unable to

To the European mind it seems imprudent to give so much prominence to the question of Lij Yasu's future as these measures imply, but those concerned presumably know what they are doing. When he was arrested a salute was fired here in order to provoke comment on the subject, and thereby give the Government an opportunity of gauging public opinion. The result is said to have been reassuring. Nevertheless Lij Yasu has adherents. The grandson and appointed heir of Menelik is not lightly set aside, and in his own probably court of the support of Rascher is hostile to Tafari. The present Government is not stable. Women's rule is a novelty, though in practice the Empress plays little part except as an obstructionist. Her thoughts turn more to religion

than/

than to kingcraft. It is not impossible she may be willing to abdicate, but in that case she would be her sister's son as her successor rather than her son whom she is not in sympathy with. Her cousin, the Emperor, appears to be a man of good disposition; honest and enlightened, and of high standards of his country. But he is not able to impress a military people, and he is not able to bear the Emperor the prestige of his rank might make up for these deficiencies. As long as he remains on the throne, although virtual ruler, his position is doubtful. He has bad health. He is himself visibly anxious of the situation. When I saw him two days ago he was anxious to obtain for him, before the expedition is sent, the guns presented to him by His Majesty's Government. I shall be able to do this as they have arrived.

My conclusion is that a change of Government is constantly reckoned with. The possibility of a restoration cannot be rejected. His conduct on the Throne was unsatisfactory, but he may have learned his years in the wilderness. I should not see anything necessarily injurious to British interests in his power. If there were a strong movement in favor of restoration, I should be inclined to recommend the Government to preserve that the Governments which are now in power should not strain at Lij Yasu.

I have etc;

(Signed) Claud Russell.

MINUTES.

MINUTES, NOT TO BE WRITTEN  
ON THIS SIDE.

In any further communication  
on this subject, please quote

No. **A 3504/9/46.**

address,

not to any person by name,

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



312  
FOREIGN OFFICE.

S.W.1.

27th 1921.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 8881/21 of the  
3rd instant, in relation to the release of securities held  
in London, of Max Klein, I am directed by Earl  
Curzon to transmit, herewith, a copy of  
a note No. 3 of the 1st instant from the United  
States Ambassador, together with a reply which has been  
sent to Mr. Harvey on this subject.

2. It will be noticed that the two items to which  
Mr. Secretary Churchill referred in his letter No.  
8881/1921 of the 2nd March have not been replied to by  
the United States Embassy, but Lord Curzon is hopeful  
that the letter now sent to Mr. Harvey will secure  
an early reply and trusts that Mr. Churchill concurs  
in its terms.

3. Owing to the urgency of the matter it was  
not considered possible to submit it to the Colonial  
Office for concurrence before despatch.

4. Lord Curzon would be glad to be informed at  
an early date as to what reply Mr. Churchill considers  
it advisable to make to the request contained in the  
United States note under review. Subject to the con-  
currence of Mr. Churchill, His Lordship is not disposed

for

Under Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office.

for the present to allow Mr. Watson greater access to the books and papers referred to than has apparently been considered advisable by the local authorities.

5. It is considered likely that in postponing the settlement suggested by Mr. Watson, to which His Majesty's Government are prepared to give their assent, Mr. Klein's legal representatives are endeavouring to strengthen their position as claimants against His Majesty's Government and that the additional evidence furnished by the books may be desired for this purpose.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

R Spurling

No. 6.

The American Ambassador presents his compliments to His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to refer to Earl Curzon's Note, No. A 8368/4544/45, of December 4th last to Mr. Davis relative to the property of Max Klein in British territories.

In this Note Lord Curzon was good enough to state that instructions had been given to the local authorities to facilitate the return of all assets to Mr. Klein's duly accredited representative at the earliest possible moment, and the suggestion was made that Mr. Klein put himself in touch with the authorities with a view to the early settlement of his assets and unliquidated property. In this connection Mr. Harvey has the honour to state that he is in receipt of a communication from Mr. Klein's legal advisers stating that Mr. A. G. Watson who





~~The name of Attorney General is~~  
~~provided that the latter's legal advisers concur in~~  
~~Mr. Watson's proposals.~~

In view of the ~~extreme~~ urgency of the case  
and of the ~~inconvenience~~ caused to the parties  
~~concerned~~, and more particularly to Mr. Watson by the  
delay on the part of His Majesty's  
Government in assenting to his proposals, Lord  
Curzon has the honour to request that he may be  
informed at the earliest possible opportunity, whether  
Mr. Klein's legal advisers have any objection to  
Mr. Watson's proposals.

Should Mr. Harvey concur Lord Curzon is  
disposed, in the absence of any such objection, to  
procure His Majesty's assent. In the  
meantime, Lord Curzon has the honour to inform Mr.

Harvey

Wishy that the questions raised in Dr. Murray's  
R-10 are received the earliest attention of the  
authorities concerned.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

May 27th 1921.