

1921

KENYA

DATE

REC

FOREIGN

15TH DECEMBER

FILE NO

CIRCULATION

SUBJECT

ITALIAN COLONIAL POLICY

Enclosure copy of ...

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Grange

Sir H. Lambert

Sir H. Wood

Sir J. ...

Mr. Wood

Mr. ...

Foreign Paper

MINUTES

1910 (G. ...)

W. ...

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W. ... 1912. ...

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My Lord,

I have the honour to reply to the speech in the Senate on Italian Colonial policy, and the sharp criticism of the Government's action in Tripoli and Cyrenaica.

Senator Mosca had given notice when Great Britain would hand over the territories ceded to Italy under the Pact of London, but in view of the absence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who was taking part in a debate in the Chamber of Deputies, it was agreed that this question should be held over until Friday.

Signor Mosca then proceeded to review the situation in Tripolitania, where, he said, the constitution had never been applied for the simple reason that with the exception of Tripoli itself and a few other places, Italian sovereignty was only nominal. In the death of Muhammad Ibrahim Ismail "the Egyptian apostle of Islamism" he obtained the ear of Mustafa, and with the latter's assistance had reached the assembly of Gariban, when the demand for a Moslem Arbitrate of Tripoli was formulated. Throughout these events Italian action, diplomatic no less than military, was such to be effective, but there was reason to believe that the Italians were now in a more amenable position, and that the Ministry of Colonies was inclined to take advantage of the fact.

The Most Honourable

The Honorable

etc. etc. etc.

After

After a brief... the late Governor, Senator
 de Martino, the special... of Cyrenaica. Here
 again he declared Italian sovereignty to be purely nominal
 and he unadvisedly upon the weakness of the Government
 in dealing with the local situation.

The Colonial Minister, Signor Girardini, prefaced his
 reply to these criticisms by saying that the possession
 of Libya was necessary for Italy and its conquest had not
 been hindered by any lack of participation even on the part
 of other Colonial Powers, but by reluctance to allow that
 part of the North coast of Africa to be occupied by other
 Powers, who would have encroached and interfered with Italy in
 the Mediterranean, where her greatest interests lay. He
 then proceeded to the defence of the policy of his
 Ministry. The *modus vivendi* established by the Hague
 Treaty has enabled a long period of peace, and the grant
 of the title of Emir to Mohammed Idris had contributed
 to the good relations between Italy and the Senussi. The
 armed camps, it was true, had not been dissolved, but they
 were under the command of Italian officers, and their
 prolongation was only provisional. In view of the forces
 at the disposal of the Senussi, the steps taken by the
 Government to avoid conflicts were justified. Finally,
 peace reigned in Cyrenaica, the people were attending to
 their labours, the Parliament was working successfully
 and all promised well for the future.

In reply, he observed the situation was not so good,
 but it was always been a troublesome country, and though
 under Italian rule, these quarters. He
 explained

explained the various causes of political agitation, and expressed the hope that as the people realized the benefit of close co-operation with the Government, these causes would be driven from the