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SITUATION IN ABYSSINIA

1920

Dec

Previous Paper.

Trans copy tel from Maj Dadds re proposed advance from Gaddadama and suggests that enquiries should be made on the subject. Presumes local authorities should take no action without the approval of H.M.'s Govt.

21/10/21

M. Dadds

*Mr. Law already received an advance
copy of Maj Dadds' letter to the effect
of which he has written Mr. Dadds that
it is not known how we can assist
further to S.O. unless we receive
a copy from Kenya*

*I have had the impression in the
last sentence of the letter that the
Chairman may be able to assist*

Subsequent Paper.

1915

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In any further communication
on this subject, please quote

No. A 9017/715/1.

address,
not to any person by name,

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

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FOREIGN OFFICE. S.W.1.

31st December, 1920.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 59599/1920 of ^{to} December 17th relative to a report of military preparations for occupying Abyssinian territory, I am directed by Earl Curzon of Kedleston to transmit to you herewith copy of a telegram addressed by His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Addis Ababa to the East African Protectorate, from which it appears that the Authorities in the latter country are contemplating an early advance from Gaddaduma.

2. The telegram No. 53, to which this is the reply, has not been seen by this Department but I am to suggest that, as it appears from your letter under reference that Lord Milner is not aware of any preparations for such an advance, early enquiries should be made of the East African Protectorate as to their intentions in this respect. Lord Curzon presumes that, in any event, the Authorities will not take any steps as are indicated in the enclosed telegram without the previous approval of His Majesty's Government.

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

R. Sperling

Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Paraphrase of telegram No. 161

From Meyer Dodds (Addis Ababa).

Addressed East African Protectorate. Repeated F.O.

Your cable of December 6th No. 539. Unless it is too late, I would urge that re-occupation of Gaddaduma be put off for the time being.

It would be greatly disliked by Government of Abyssinia and would affect their friendship to us, which is much to be deprecated (a) having regard to settlement of Magi case, as being prejudicial to the position of Hawkins (b) as liable to prejudice proceedings with regard to resettlement of frontier as to which Abyssinian Government is generally in agreement (c) in view of the fact that I am hopeful that Fitaurari himself will be despatched to Borama to restore order and due administration.

In lieu, I would recommend that another urgent protest to Government of Abyssinia against what is happening on the Southern frontier, demonstrating absolute necessity of Fitaurari's being there and stating that unless suitable steps are taken within 3 weeks we shall be compelled to put matters right ourselves by occupying Gaddaduma. Above would give Government of Abyssinia the opportunity to obviate complaints in the future. It is possible that Fitaurari was really wants to proceed to Borama to restore due administration and order.

Occupation

Occupation by force at the present moment
would prejudicially affect the friendship of every
member of the Government of Abyssinia, impair
Hawkin's usefulness and prejudice proceedings for
frontier resettlement.