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Wireless Tel. Station
at Adis Ababa.

Sends despatch from Adis Ababa reporting that Italian Legation is endeavouring to obtain Abyssin Govt. for the Marconi Co. a concession for a high power station at Adis Ababa, & suggesting similar stations at Harar, Khartoum & if possible Gambela.

Mr. Johnson

H. J. R.

107 ^{xii}
~~Mr. Johnson~~ Sir G. Fiddes

As to penultimate par. we shall of course not let Marconi Co. have a station of their own at Nairobi.

? Put by Genl 11/12

H. J. R.

Alone P. 11 ^{11/xii}

part by

subsequent Paper



C. O.
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In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 51123/1912

and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents
his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for *the Colonies*

_____ and, by direction of the Secretary of
State, transmits herewith *cop* of the under-mentioned paper *for*
observations.

Foreign Office,
December 9, 1912.

Reference to previous letter :

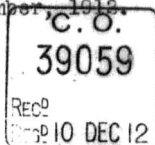
Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
<i>Mr. T Lenger, Adis Ababa No. 86 Nov 6</i>	<i>Proposed establishment of a wireless telegraph station at Adis Ababa</i>

(Similar letter sent to Board of Trade and General Post Office)

ADIS ABABA,

6th November, 1912.



Sir:-

I have the honour to report that the Italian Legation is endeavouring to obtain from the Abyssinian Government a concession for the Marconi Company to establish a high power wireless telegraph station at Adis Ababa.

This would link up Massowah with Lugh and Mogadischu and would be a great improvement on the present line on which communication is constantly being interrupted by the poles being blown down by storms.

I do not anticipate any arrangement being arrived at until Lij Yasu's return to Adis Ababa.

I hear however from Count Colli that Mr. J. Humphreys is in correspondence with the Marconi Company on the same subject and is endeavouring to find the money so that he may on his return be able to put a definite proposal before the Ethiopian Government.

On this point however I have personally no news.

I do not believe that Mr. Humphreys will succeed,

as

Right Honourable

Sir E. Grey, Bart., K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

— as if the Government were to establish a high power station at the capital on their own account the cost will probably be a good deal more than they will be willing to provide, whereas if the Marconi Company make this installation themselves, they will come to an agreement whereby the Government will receive a certain percentage of the profits and the Erytreaan Government will also grant a subvention.

I am in favour of Count Colli's plan as the service would be more effective in the hands of the Marconi Company than if it were managed by the Abyssinian Government. In this connection I would suggest that the Marconi Company might be approached on the subject of the establishment of similar stations at Nairobi and Khartoum with if possible a station at Gambela. These last two stations especially, would be very useful for our trade connections with the Sudan and would strengthen our hold over Western Abyssinia as at present the only sure means of communication are by runner, as the telephone line is practically useless.

I am addressing copies of this despatch to

Cairo

Cairo Khartoum and Nairobi.

I have &c.,

(Signed) Wilfred G. Thesiger.