

East Afr. Prot.
GENERAL
SOMALILAND
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al Post
Date
912
Previous Paper
635

Wireless telegraph stations at Coltan
in Italian East Africa

Send copy letter from Italian Post Office reporting
on the working of the stations.

Mr. Johnson

D.S. 11.4

J.W. Read

This supplements the
info given in 9635 (which see)
? Put by

Apr 16/12

This went on with other pt

Put by
Apr 22/12
ahr

Subsequent Paper

COPY HAS BEEN RECD

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Address reply to "The Secretary, General Post Office,"
quoting Registered No. 106334

GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON.

9 April 1912. 10 APR 12

Sir,

I am directed by the Postmaster General to send to you for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies translation of a letter which he has received from the Italian Post Office with regard to the high power wireless telegraph stations at Coltano and in Italian East Africa. The distance between Coltano and Massowah being about 2300 geographical miles and between Coltano and Mogadiscio about 3000 miles the Postmaster General thinks that this information may be of interest to The Secretary of State in connection with the proposals for establishing a chain of high power stations on British territory.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Stabb

Under Secretary of State,

COLONIAL OFFICE.

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10 APR 12

TRANSLATION.

Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs.

Rome, 21st March 1912.

Division 3 Section I,
335814/93.

Information respecting the working of the Stations of Coltano, Massowah and Mogadiscio.

With regard to the information asked for in the letter of the 2nd of March, this Ministry begs to state in the first place that the Station at Coltano is not yet completely finished, it having been brought into working order urgently for military needs.

It follows that the actual working of the station above mentioned is carried on under conditions varying from the normal; and, in consequence, it would not be possible to give adequate replies to the questions contained in the letter under reply.

Nevertheless, in its desire to comply with the request of your Administration, this Ministry asked the Ministry of Marine which controls provisionally the working of the Station at Coltano for any information likely to be useful. The following particulars were furnished.

From the time of their installation up to the present the stations of Coltano, Massowah and Mogadiscio have always worked regularly, up till now no interruption having occurred in their use.

The Station of Coltano communicates by day and night with that at Massowah and, moreover, is heard distinctly at Mogadiscio. It receives from Massowah only during the hours of the night; but it must be added that the power of the station last mentioned was calculated to communicate with Mogadiscio only. The fact, therefore, that by night communication is possible between Massowah and Coltano - a distance about three times greater than that between Massowah and Mogadiscio - proves the efficient nature of the installation, which has exceeded expectations.

Except during violent atmospheric disturbances, the radio-telegraph service between Massowah and Mogadiscio is assured both by day and night, the measures taken for the reception of messages enabling them to be heard clearly at either station:

As regards the rate of transmission, the speed of transmission of ordinary radio-telegraph stations of smaller power can be reached: and it can be maintained that, with skilled operators, the traffic could reach a monthly average of about 65000 words sent and the same number received, allowing for the time lost in consequence of any short interruptions that might occur.

In conclusion, the Station at Coltano can send to all the stations in Europe and to the Station at Glace Bay with the certainty of the messages being received quite clearly. The former station can receive perfectly well from the station at Clifden: while from the station at Glace Bay it can receive during a certain number of hours only, i.e. from 11.0 p.m. to 10.0 a.m.