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1910

Jubaland

Complaints of action of port in Jubaland
land at Kismayu to Italian Syndicate

W. Reed.

I have seen Mr Nesbitt today, & have shown him the agreement of the 15th of June 1905 between Great Britain & Italy by which H.M.G. agreed to lease to the Italian Govt a plot of land at Kismayu & to give them a right of passage from the plot to a point in Italian territory (p. 958 of Hertslet's Map of Africa & Treaty, 1909 edition).

Mr Nesbitt was blissfully unaware of this agreement, & he admitted that its existence altered the whole aspect of the question. He is going to have

I an interview with Sr P. Girouard to
whom I have shown this letter early in
the New Year. I understood that he
did not now expect any written reply.

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HAB

Dec. 21

at once

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I am interested with Sir P. Goodard (to
whom I have shown this letter) early in
the New Year. I understand that he
did not now expect any written reply.

Put by?

HAB

Dec. 21

at once

4. J. R.

22/24

10 Fenchurch Avenue
London E.C.
20th December 1910

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nr 20

The Secretary of State for the Colonies
Whitehall

Sir,

I beg to enclose extracts from my letter, both dated Kisumu, 15th Nov 1910 written by my manager, Mr R. M. Dwyer to Mr Blair Galkeld. The originals are of course at your disposal. It appears to me that the action being now taken by the British Administration is fatal to my interest and that of any Englishman interested in Subaland.

Mr Dwyer to Mr Blair Galkeld

Mr Baccare (the Italian Resident) had asked me for a part of our grant at Gobwen for the purpose of a landing place for the Italian ferry and asked me what it was for Percy Gerwards well. I don't think I have been quite fairly treated in that matter, seeing that I proposed a ferry and then, without asking me what I wished to construct it or not, it was granted to the Italian.

Now what interest is the ferry had across the river? Obviously the Italian. What do they pay for this privilege? And they also to have the right to build a railway on their grant of land from Kisumu to Gobwen? It seems to me that they are everything and we English get nothing.

"Remember they have no harbour of their own. The Administration have granted them a strip of land from Kisumu to Gobwen. You have granted them a landing site at Gobwen and now you have allowed them to build the ferry. Why bless my heart you have given them Kisumu Harbour."

When I took up the Suba River six years ago, the best security I saw for the rest, I was remaining was the fact that Kisumu Harbour belonged to England. Without eyes on I think I may believe that without me very little would even yet be known of the Suba. All the money spent on development, over £5000 belongs to myself and my family. A Belg. Italian Company is leasing boats on the river backed with a subsidy of £2500 a year. I do not fear them and have carried in their boats and stores, but if the British Government is going to throw in its weight with them as well, does but one end to the struggle.

I leave them all I can to assist the British Administration as I think they will admit.

Yours faithfully

Geo J. Steghe