

EAST AFR. PROT.
UGANDA
24688

C.O
24683
REC'D
17 JUL 13

Foreign Office

1913

17 July

Last previous Paper.

24414

Protection agst. Abyssinian Raids.

Sends des. fr. Adis Ababa resp. question
of strengthening of frontier post. and patrols
in S. & W. Abyssinia

Sir J. Anderson.

The Sudan Govt. are going to
patrol the frontier more frequently in the
west & we shall, as usual, have to do the
same likewise on the south

Copy to the file of the E.A.P. for
info. LTT

H. J. R.

21/ VII / 13

11. 22. 7. 13

Col. Kitchener told me the other
day that he was getting 3 British
Consuls posted on the Abyssinian
side of the Sudan border, and he
thinks we should find advantage

Next subsequent Paper.

24487

if we did this in the South
of Abyssinia.
Have the draft any value?
Should we ask the Gov. of E. A. P.
his opinion?

22/7/13

Dr. J. Anderson

See my minute of the
7th of July in 22733. Personally,
I am strongly in favour of the policy,
but I was anxious to get full
details from Mr. Armbroster as to
how the system worked in the case of
the Sudan & as to likely effects
in Abyssinia for the R.A.P. agents,
before writing to the Gov.

H. J. R.

23/24/13

I am not sure that there is no trade or commerce
in the Sudan at present, and the agents would not
be likely to get any revenue from there.
I think any money we have to spend should be
kept just on an efficient patrol and administration
officers within our own borders. We must be in a
position to say that there is no commerce and
that we may deal with Armbroster.

23/7/13

I assume that the cost of
these Consular agents will fall
on I.D. and cost us nothing
but for Mr. Armbroster

25

2c

C. O. 255
24583
REC'D
JUL 17 1913

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

28624/13

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 copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office.

July 17, 1913.

Reference to previous letter:

Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject
Mr. Theisger (Adis Ababa) May 30.	Question of strengthening frontier posts and patrols on Sudan border

(Similar letter sent)

C. 1
24688
256

REC^d
JUN 27 JUL 13

ARMS TRAFFIC

CONFIDENTIAL

SECTION 1.

No. 1

[28624]

Mr. Thesiger to Sir Edward Grey. (Received June 23.)

(No. 34.)

Adis Ababa, May 30, 1913.

Sir, I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of my answer, dated the 28th ultimo, to a letter from the Siridar asking whether I had anything to urge against stronger measures being taken on the frontier to check the incursions of bands of marauders from Abyssinian territory. Sir Reginald Wingate points out that hitherto the frontier officers were ordered to abstain from sending patrols too frequently or too close to the actual frontier for fear of arousing Abyssinian suspicions of the intentions of the Sudan with regard to this country, but that these instructions naturally resulted in hampering our officers in their efforts to give our native subjects the protection to which they were entitled.

As is shown in my reply, I am all in favour of stronger measures being taken, and believe that the time is passed when our perhaps excessive regard for Abyssinian susceptibilities could be expected to assist them in consolidating the Kingdom or to aid in cementing the good relations between the two countries.

The Emperor Menelik was capable of understanding that our forbearance in this respect was due to our desire not to press too severely on, or to expect too much from, his recently created Empire and was prepared to do his best to second our views, but the actual Government simply regard our forbearance as excusing them from taking any real action to stop disorders on their frontiers or from giving us any satisfaction for these outrages beyond vain promises.

I am, therefore, of the opinion that we must, both in the south and in the west, increase our patrols and police posts to an extent which will enable them to deal with these raids in the most rigorous fashion and in the event of any further incursions on a large scale, such as the Anuak raid which lead to the fight at Odongo, hold the Government responsible and insist on a sufficient compensation either in territory or in money.

The disorder which exists now on the east in the Danakil country, on the south in the Borana district, and on the west in all the frontier provinces, is no exception and is typical of the state of affairs which exists throughout the country.

The finances are in a deplorable condition, less from any actual want of money than from the disorganisation of Government control over the Treasury and the misappropriation of funds, and it was only by taking energetic action that I was able recently to force the authorities to pay over to the Bank of Abyssinia some 35,000 dollars which was owing for State bills which were long overdue, and I have had to use strong language to the Council of late with regard to the difficulties experienced by British subjects in obtaining justice or even the execution of sentences pronounced in their favour, and Mr. Dodds has recently sent me a list of fifty outstanding cases in Harar which concern Arabs, Somalis, and Indians, which he is unable to get settled.

I am addressing copy of this despatch to Lord Kitchener.

I have, &c.

WILFRED G. THESIGER

Enclosure in No. 1.

Mr. Thesiger to Governor-General Sir R. Wingate.

Adis Ababa, May 28, 1913.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's letter of the 30th April last regarding the initiation of a more active policy on the frontier with a view to checking gun-running and raiding in general, I am of the opinion that stronger measures ought to be taken.

For over a year now I have been warning the Abyssinian Government very strongly that their failure to maintain order on their frontiers and to suppress the

bands of marauders who live by hunting, slave raiding, and pillaging on our side of the border, whether in the south or the west, could only result in forcing us to take protective measures and to increase our police posts and patrols on the frontier.

That these measures would almost certainly lead to collisions between our forces and such Abyssinian bodies as crossed the frontier for illicit purposes and refused to surrender or retire when summoned to do so by the proper authorities and that the responsibility for such incidents would rest entirely on the Abyssinian Government.

I have never ceased to impress upon them that peace on the frontier was the first requisite for the friendly relations between the two countries, which both we and they desire, and that while the Soudan Government had shown extraordinary patience in the face of many provocations, they on their side had done nothing to give effect to the promises they had so frequently made to me to prevent these incursions in future.

I would, therefore, strongly recommend that the fear of arousing Abyssinian susceptibilities should no longer be considered a ground for refraining from taking such measures as are necessary for the protection of our tribes from these marauders, and would suggest that I should be authorised to inform the Abyssinian Government both verbally and in writing that, in view of their failure to keep order on their border, the Soudan frontier posts would be increased and that patrols along the line would be more frequent in future, at the same time assuring them that these measures were purely protective and that our troops would under no circumstances cross to the Abyssinian side of the border.

I am of the opinion that after the patience which has been shown by the Soudan Government any further delay in protecting the interest of our subjects would serve no useful purpose and could only be harmful to our prestige in the eyes of the frontier tribes.

I am addressing copies of this despatch to Sir E. Grey and Lord Kitchener.

I have, &c.

WILHELM G. THESIGER.