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Magazine Office

Situation on S. Abyssinian Frontier

1913

24 July

List previous Paper.

40/ 24940

Sends Prof. P. Aden Ababa reporting representation made to Abyssian Govt in regard to recent incident resulting in death of Capt. Ogilby & proposing strong action in the event of Abyssian Govt failing to come to terms suggested - also tel. to Mr. Thompson inquiring nature of the strong action proposed

Dr. J. Anderson

Sent copy of this to the
Govt, with ref. to previous comm^{ts},
& Secret DG?

H. J. R.

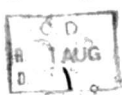
25/7/13

Uk. 25.7.13

A sensible telegram from the F. O.

25.7.13

M.S.M.



Next subsequent Paper.

40/ 26082

25643

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In any further communication on this subject, please refer to No.

32264/13

The Under-Secretary of State, Foreign Office, London.



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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 copies of the ~~under-mentioned papers~~ ^{correspondence with}

Foreign Office,
July 24, 1913.

Reference to previous letter:

Foreign office July 18

24835

Description of Inclosure

Name and Date.

Subject.

Mr Theiger
(Adis Ababa)
June 19

respecting the
Death of Captain
Crylmer

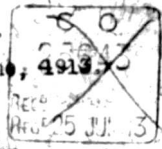
To Mr Theiger
(Telegraphic)
July 18

* No 24835

(Similar letter sent to)

ADIS ABABA.

19th June, 1913.



Sir:

With reference to the death of Captain Aylmer, I have the honour to report that I saw the Council of Ministers on Saturday last and informed them that His Majesty's Government while reserving the question of compensation for later discussion, held it was now absolutely necessary, for the prevention of such incidents in future, that a rectification of the frontier should be made which would give us permanent water along the narrow strip from G. Kuffoli to Gebel Furroll so that we could patrol our side of the line effectively, and that all the hunters in any way responsible for Captain Aylmer's death should be caught and hung half at Moyale, half in Adis Ababa.

I reminded them forcibly that it was on their distinct promise to prevent all these raids in future that we had consented to leave the question of the frontier line in abeyance and that this promise had not only not been kept but that matters had been allowed

Right Honourable
 Sir E. Grey, Bart., K.G.
 &c., &c., &c.

to

to go from bad to worse, pointing out that it was only out of consideration for the weakness of the Ethiopian Government that His Majesty's Government had been so patient in the face of continued provocation both on the Western and Southern frontiers and that while they were now forced in self defence to insist on the acceptance of the above measures they wished to make matters as easy as possible for the Abyssinian Government as regards their position towards their own people by offering them an equivalent compensation south of the line in exchange for the territory which must be handed to us.

I then asked when they would be prepared to give me an answer, and when they said they must wait for a month or six weeks until they had received a reply to the letters they had sent to the frontier officers for further details, I told them that while I was willing the question of compensation should be delayed until further details were received, the fact of Captain Aylmer's death at the hands of figre hunters and of the existence of a chronic state of disorder on the frontier was established beyond discussion, and consequently the

questions

questions of the rectification of the frontier and of compensation could and must be dealt with separately and the former was too urgent to allow me to grant them this delay and after some discussion they promised to meet me again on the 26th instant.

I am afraid there is no chance of their being willing to make the proposed alterations in the line unless they feel they are forced to the wall, when they will give way; they realise they cannot afford to alienate British friendship but, in the usual Abyssinian fashion, they hope by postponing any definite answer to avoid coming to a decision, trusting that in time the matter will be allowed to drop especially if the guilty persons are meanwhile caught and executed.

I believe that the time has come to make a definite stand against this method of dealing with European affairs and that the death of a British officer, culminating as it does a three years series of wilful outrages on both frontiers, is a matter of such grave importance that any refusal to meet our wishes or any attempt to delay reparation would justify and necessitate the strongest action on our part.

I am addressing copies of this Despatch to Lord

Kitchener

Kitchener and the Governor of the East African Pro-
tectorate.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

Wilfred G. Theisger.

Encl 2 in No

264

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(713)
(Paraphrase) of Telegram to Mr. Theisger, Addis Ababa.
Foreign Office, July 18th, 1913.

No. 41

Death of Captain Aylmer.

Your despatch No. 41 of June 19th.

We desire for our own sakes to prevent the loss of
Abyssinian independence or the disintegration of the
country, and consequently we cannot entertain any idea
of a military expedition.

This being the case, it would be quite useless,
as the Abyssinians must well know, for us to make
threats to which we could not give effect. What then
is the action which you contemplate in the penultimate
paragraph of your despatch above-mentioned?