

In any further communication
on this subject, please quote

No. 22736/11.

and address—

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



Foreign Office

June 15th. 1911.

Sir—

R.Rodd
Rafines

With reference to your letter No. 19820/108 of the 2nd instant respecting the delimitation of the Nile River boundary, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith for the information of Mr. Secretary Harcourt copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Ambassador at Rome, enclosing the text of the proposed exchange of notes to record the transfer of sovereign rights over the spit of sand to the north of the present mouth of the River. Copy of another despatch from His Excellency transmitting a translation of a communication on the subject made in the Press by the Italian Authorities, is also enclosed.

R.Rodd
Rafines

Sir E. Grey proposes to approve the terms of the draft notes, and also to accept Sir E. Rodd's proposal that a paragraph should be added to the effect that the recognition of Italian sovereignty is made

without

Secretary of State,

Foreign Office.

(22735/11).

without prejudice to the question of principle in-
volved. The expression used in the Italian communiqué
stating that the question has been settled in conformity
with the wishes of Italy, appears to make it all the
more desirable that the question of principle should be
reserved.

I am,

Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Arthur Serrano,

W. Langley

C.O
19826
JUN 17 1911

Rome,
7 June 1911.

Vo. 2 Africa.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch Vo. 22 Africa of the 3rd instant and in reply to state that the Minister for Foreign Affairs has greatly appreciated the goodwill and promptitude with which His Majesty's Government have met his wishes in regard to the new conditions arising from the change in the mouth of the Juba River.

The Foreign Estimates were laid before the Chamber yesterday evening and His Excellency had hesitated until an exchange of notes had actually been authorized as to how far he would be justified in making a definite statement on a matter, the favourable settlement of which would be a valuable asset to him in coping with criticisms and interpellations.

He has lost no time in making a communication to the press and the papers of this morning contain an announcement on this subject, translation of which is enclosed herewith.

As regards the exchange of notes, I propose in addressing His Excellency to make use of the precise terms of your despatch I have referred to. The Director General of the African

Right Hon.

Department

Sir E. Grey Bart., B. P.,
etc. etc. etc.

Department has, however, called on me and explained that, while the Minister has nothing to object to in the proposed terms, this text would in their opinion not quite cover the ground intended. By using the word "cede" in the first place and affirming subsequently that in the event of future changes in the river mouth the north bank should belong to Italy and the south bank to Great Britain, it might seem implicit that in each specific case there would have to be recorded a definite act of cession to determine the sovereign rights over the portion of sand bank left to the one side or the other, whereas the evident intention was that in future such transfers should be automatic. I said that the point did not appear to me very important and it could be got over by some such phrase as "recognise the transfer to the Italian Government". I was in any case ready to submit to you any modification which might be desired.

Signor Agnesa said he would consider the matter and return to it. The actual exchange of notes did not press, the important matter from their point of view was that they should be able to state that such an exchange of notes had been agreed to.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,
Sir,
your most obedient, humble servant

The mouth of the River Juba having in February 1909 changed its bed in the direction of British territory, a question arose as to the determination of the boundary line between Italy and England, a line established by the Protocol of 1891 as defined by the thalweg of the river.

It was maintained on the British side that the dry channel remained the boundary line, while on the Italian side it was contended that the line had been transferred to the median line of the new mouth of the river.

After friendly negotiations with the British Ambassador at Rome the question has been harmoniously settled in conformity with the thesis and interests of Italy so that the thalweg of the new mouth continues to be the boundary between the two neighbour colonies, and the principle thus adopted will be upheld in the event of new modifications taking place.

An exchange of Notes will regulate the exact terms of the understanding for the present and the future.

551

19826
Recd
17 JUN 11

Rome,
9 June 1911.

No. 8 Africa.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit, with reference to my despatch No. 8 Africa of the 7th instant, the text of a proposed exchange of Notes drawn up, after consultation with the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in order to record the transfer of sovereign rights over the spit of sand left to the North of the present issue of the Juba river into the Indian Ocean, by a change in the configuration of its mouth. These Notes have been drafted with a view to covering the point raised by the Italian Government and ensuring a similar transfer of sovereignty automatically, and without further negotiations, in the event of future modifications occurring at the mouth of the river.

In undertaking to submit the proposed Notes for your consideration, I observed that I thought it might be your wish, in order to prevent appeal being made to this friendly agreement as a precedent, to add some phrase to the effect that the recognition of Italian sovereignty was made without prejudice to the question of principle involved in such geographical variations.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

Yours most obedient,
Sir H. ...
etc. etc.

G. O.
19826
Recd &
JUN 17 1901

COPY OF DEPARTS NOTE

Monsieur le Ministre,

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that as a result of the negotiations which have taken place in consequence of the alteration in the mouth of the Juba River with a view to determining the present frontier between British East Africa and Italian Somaliland at the river mouth, I am authorized by His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to state that His Majesty's Government recognize the sovereignty of Italy over the spit of land at the mouth of the Juba River situated between the old channel and the new one, on the understanding that the proprietary rights of individuals shall be respected, and that in the event of further changes taking place in the river mouth the North bank of the mouth with all territory to the north of it shall belong to Italy and the South bank with all territory to the south of it to Great Britain

C. C.
19826
REC. &
JUN 11

Signor Ambasciatore

Ho l'onore di registrarle ricevuta della nota Giughe corrente contenente le dichiarazioni del Governo di Sua Maestà Britannica per la determinazione del confine italo-inglese alla foce del fiume Giuba, dichiarazioni delle quali ho preso atto con compiacimento.

In conformità ad esse, resta inteso che il Governo di Sua Maestà Britannica riconosce la sovranità dell'Italia sulla lingua di terra alla foce del fiume Giuba situata tra l'antica corso ed il nuovo con riserva di diritti di proprietà dei privati che saranno rispettati e nell'intesa che nel caso di ulteriori spostamenti nella foce del fiume, la sponda sinistra della foce, col territorio retrostante, apparterrà all'Italia e la sponda destra, col territorio retrostante, alla Gran Bretagna.
Gradisca, ecc.,

Mr Rennell Rodd

Ambasciatore di S.M. Britannica

a Roma.

translation.

C. O.
19826
Recd. at Ministry for Foreign Affairs
17 JUN 11

Rome.

556A

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Note of June, formulating the declarations of His Britannic Majesty's Government regarding the determination of the Anglo-Italian frontier at the mouth of the Juba River, declarations of which I have taken note with great satisfaction.

In conformity with them it is understood that His Britannic Majesty's Government recognise the sovereignty of Italy over the spit of land at the mouth of the Juba River lying between the old and the new course of the river, reserving proprietary rights of individuals which shall be respected, it being at the same time agreed that, in the event of further changes in the river mouth, the left bank of the mouth, with the territory behind it, shall belong to Italy and the right bank, with the territory behind it, to Great Britain.

I have, etc.,

Sir Rennell Rodd

His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Rome.

707 19020 lat

1850

DRAFT

A. S. N. S.

P.O.

26 June 1911

MINUTE.

- Mr. Parkman 19/6
- Mr. Aldgate
- Mr. Fildes
- Mr. Just
- Mr. Cox
- Sir C. Lucas
- Lord Lucas
- Mr. Harcourt

I am etc to ask the receipt
 of your letter 10/22/11 of the
 11th of June, to request
 you to inf. Sir C. Lucas
 that he concurs in the
 proposal to improve the
 terms of the off. water
 record the transfer of
 many rights on the
 part of land to the north
 of the present water
 of the Lake House.

Copy to Sir
 etc

also

7.0/19020 lat

8/11/11

DRAFT.

A. S. N. S.

P.O.

20 June 1911

MINUTE.

- Mr. Parkinson 19/6
- Mr. Reed 20/6
- Mr. Piddell
- Mr. Jupp
- Mr. Day
- Mr. C. Lucas
- Lord Curzon
- Mr. Harcourt

I have etc to acknowledge receipt
 of your letter of 22/6/11 of the
 10th of June, & to request
 you to inf. Sec. Sec. Sec.
 that he concurs in the
 proposal to represent the
 views of the off. notes to
 receive the transfer of
 copyright rights on the
 part of land to the author
 of the present work
 of the Public Health, &
 also

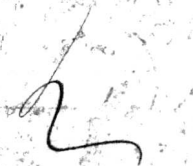
Copyright for
 the present work
 of the Public Health, &
 also

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that a paragraph
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involved.

CPZ

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should be added to
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recognition of Italian
sovereignty is made
without prejudice
to the question of principle
involved.


C.P.L.

C. O.
19826
REC. &
JUN 11

Signor ...

Ho l'onore di segnalarle ricevuta della
nota Giughe Torrens contenente le dichiarazioni del Governo di
Sua Maestà Britannica per la determinazione del confine italo-
inglese alla foce del fiume Giughe, dichiarazioni delle quali ho
preso atto con compiacimento.

In conformità ad esse, resta inteso che il Governo di
Sua Maestà Britannica riconosce la sovranità dell'Italia sulla
lingua di terra alla foce del fiume Giughe situata tra l'antica
corso ed il nuovo con riserva di diritti di proprietà dei pri-
vati che saranno rispettati e nell'intesa che nel caso di alter-
iori spostamenti nella foce del fiume, la sponda sinistra della
foce, del territorio retrostante, apparterrà all'Italia e la
sponda destra, del territorio retrostante, alla Gran Bretagna.

Gradison, ecc.,

Mr. Russell ...

Ambasciatore di S. M. Britannica

a Roma.

C. O.
19826
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
17 JUN 16

556

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Note of June, formulating the declarations of His Britannic Majesty's Government regarding the determination of the Anglo-Italian frontier at the mouth of the Juba River, declarations of which I have taken note with great satisfaction.

In conformity with Article 11, it is understood that His Britannic Majesty's Government recognizes the sovereignty of Italy over the spit of land at the mouth of the Juba River lying between the old and the new course of the river, reserving proprietary rights of individuals which shall be respected, it being at the same time agreed that, in the event of further changes in the river mouth, the left bank of the mouth, with the territory behind it, shall belong to Italy and the right bank, with the territory behind it, to Great Britain.

I have, etc.

By Russell Reid
His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Rome.

707 19020 lat

5/5/11

DRAFT

A. S. S.
70

2 June 1911

MINUTE

Mr. Prichard 19/6
 Mr. [unclear]
 Mr. [unclear]
 Mr. [unclear]
 Mr. [unclear]
 Mr. [unclear]
 Mr. [unclear]
 Mr. [unclear]

I am etc to ask the receipt
 of your letter P. 22738 of the
 10th of June, to request
 you to inf. See Lettrey
 that he concurs in the
 proposal to improve the
 terms of the off. notes to
 record the transfer of
 mining rights on the
 [unclear] of land to the south
 of the present mouth
 of the Tuba River & of

also in the proposal
that a principle
should be added to
the effect that the
recognition of Italian
sovereignty is made
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to the question of principle
involved.

CPZ