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asury

Mr. Zaphiro

Date:

1911

6 p. l.

previous Paper.

8901

Sends for obtain letter fr. P.O. rel. to proposed transfer of Mr. Zaphiro from East to affd. as Interpreter at Addis Ababa. Inquires whether any extra expre from East funds would be involved by loss of Mr. Zaphiro's services.

Mr. Read.

I submit a brief draft in reply. I do not think we are called upon to say anything more than the draft contains.

HaB
April 10.
at me.
H. J. H.
10/11

Subsequent Paper

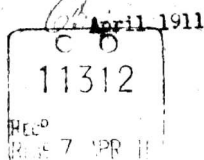
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In the reply to this Letter the following
Number should be quoted.

5647

11.

TREASURY CHAMBERS.



Sir,

I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to transmit to you herewith copy of a letter dated the 21st ultimo from the Foreign Office, relative to the proposed transfer of Mr. Zaphiro from the service of the East Africa Protectorate to an appointment as Interpreter to His Majesty's Legation at Adis Ababa, and I am to request that My Lords may be favoured with the observations of Mr. Secretary Harcourt on this application.

In particular They would be glad to be informed whether, if the proposal were approved, any extra expenditure from the East Africa Protectorate's funds would be involved by the loss of Mr. Zaphiro's services.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. C. [Signature]

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

[Handwritten mark]

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COPY

FOREIGN OFFICE,

March 21st, 1911

(7002/11)

Sir

With reference to your letter 16172 of September third last, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to state, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, that he has recently had under his consideration the question of the native interpreters at His Majesty's Legation at Adis Ababa, Abyssinia.

As Their Lordships are doubtless aware, Mr. Theisiger, towards the latter end of last year, was obliged to dispense with the services of Mr. Bern, the First Interpreter, who had taken advantage of his position to enter into intrigues against the Abyssinian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

About the same time also Mr. Hope, the Officer of the British East Africa Protectorate at Fort Harrington on the Abyssinian frontier, applied to Mr. Theisiger for the services of an interpreter pending the return of Mr. Zaphiro, who was detained at Adis Ababa by the negotiations with the Abyssinian Government on the question of the Southern Frontier. Mr. Theisiger was able to send him one of the native interpreters trained at Khartoum, thereby leaving the Legation with only two interpreters. As however Mr. Zaphiro was in Adis Ababa, Mr. Theisiger did not for

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The Secretary
to the Treasury.

the moment consider it necessary to fill up Mr. Berle's place. It has however now become necessary to find a suitable person to fill the post of First Interpreter, a matter which presents much difficulty. Abyssinia and Aden has been a source of trouble to all the Legations at Adis Ababa in late years. The German Legation for instance has had to employ a trained interpreter, and it has proved of little use.

It is therefore essential for His Majesty's Legation to have a confidential and trustworthy agent who can give reliable information and to transmit to the Abyssinian Government of their entirety the decisions and opinions of His Majesty's Legation. It is necessary to find an Abyssinian with the necessary qualifications.

In these circumstances Sir K. G. G. is anxious to secure the services of Mr. Zaphire. He is a married man. Mr. Zaphire has hitherto been employed by the British East Africa Protectorate as inspector of the boundary between the Protectorate and Abyssinia, and has given every satisfaction in that capacity. It has been ascertained that the Colonial Office would not raise any objection to him being transferred to the service of His Majesty's Legation and Mr. Zaphire would also be willing to accept the post of interpreter provided the conditions as to salary &c., are satisfactorily settled.

The present interpreter establishment of His Majesty's Legation at Adis Ababa consists of :-

1st

1st Interpreter £144 to £180 mean	£162
2nd " " \$80 a month (£8)	96
2 Juniors at £5 a month each	<u>120</u>
	£ 378

The establishment which Sir E. Grey would propose to substitute for this would be as follows :-

1st Interpreter £400 to £500 mean	£450
2nd " " \$80 a month	96
Arabic-speaking Abyssinian at \$20 a month	<u>24</u>
	£ 570

In fixing the amount of the salary to be assigned to Mr. Zaphiro, consideration must be given to the salary he is already receiving as Inspector of the frontier under the British East Africa Protectorate authorities. Mr. Zaphiro is at present in receipt of Four hundred pounds together with a subsistence allowance of seven rupees a day, which amounts together to a total of Five hundred and sixty three pounds eighteen shillings and four pence per year.

It would not be possible to acquire his services at a smaller salary than he has been receiving hitherto, and given the difference in the cost of living on the Southern frontier and at Adis Ababa, Sir E. Grey does not consider that a salary of Four hundred pounds rising by annual increments of Twenty pounds to Five hundred pounds, together with a subsistence allowance paid by His Majesty's Minister, would be at all excessive.

Sir

400
s.7
63.18.4

400
20

27

Sir E. Grey would also propose to give Mr. Zaphiro pension rights on the usual conditions.

If it is decided to employ Mr. Zaphiro permanently at Adis Ababa it would moreover be possible to do away with the third interpreter who receives Five pounds a month, replacing him by an Arabic-speaking Abyssinian at Twenty dollars a month. The two interpreters who were trained at Khartoum have unfortunately not proved themselves at all efficient, and although one of them has been sent by Mr. Thesiger to assist Mr. Hope on the frontier, as stated above it would not have been practicable to have retained him very much longer in any case at His Majesty's Legation. The second interpreter who was trained at Khartoum has also proved of very little use to His Majesty's Minister and Sir E. Grey is compelled to admit that the experiment of training men for this service at Khartoum has not fulfilled expectations.

Although the employment of Mr. Zaphiro would entail an annual increase in the expenditure of His Majesty's Legation of One hundred and ninety two pounds, Sir E. Grey feels that the appointment would be amply justified by results. It will moreover, Sir E. Grey hopes, be possible before long to effect considerable economies in the courier service of His Majesty's Legation at Adis Ababa. Proposals for abolishing the Legation mail service altogether in favour of using the Abyssinian post have already been made, but they are as yet too indefinite to enable an approximate estimate to be formed of the probable saving to His Majesty's Government under that heading.

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In the meantime Sir E. Grey feels that His Majesty's Government have the chance of at length securing the services of a really efficient and trustworthy person to fill the post of first interpreter, and I am to express the hope that the Lords Commissioners will take all the circumstances into their careful consideration, and will give their formal consent to the appointment of Mr. Zaphiro and to the proposed annual increase in the expenditure of the Legation at Adis Ababa which would be entailed thereby.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

(Sd.) W. LANGLEY.

Downing Street,

// April, 1911.

DRAFT

Secretary to the
TREASURY.

MINUTE.

- Mr. Butler, April 10th
- Mr. Head 10
- Mr. Fildes.
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Cox.
- Sir C. Lucas.

- Col. Seely.
- Mr. Harcourt.

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Recd 5/13/11

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Harcourt to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 5647/11, of the 10th of April, relating to the proposed transfer of Mr. Zaphiro from the service of the East Africa Protectorate to an appointment as interpreter to His Majesty's Consulate at Adis Ababa. It is noted that you would have no objection to the transfer of Mr. Zaphiro to the proposed appointment at Adis Ababa, where his knowledge of the conditions prevailing on the frontier

between