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Conference, in so far as it might deal with Yarbutenda and Zanzibar, it would certainly be rather inconvenient to me to return to Paris.

M. Louis observed that, in these circumstances, he thought the proposed Conference might begin its sittings in London and subsequently transfer them, if need were, to Paris.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. W. CLARKE.

[June 19 23062

EAST AFRICA.

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[13313]

No. 1.

*Sir Edward Grey, to the Marquis di San Giuliano.*

*Foreign Office, June 19, 1907.*

Your Excellency,

I HAVE the honour to state that His Majesty's Government have given their careful consideration to the question of the nationality of the natives of the Benadir Coast resident in Zanzibar previous to the Agreement of the 13th January, 1905, which formed the subject of Count de Bosdari's note of the 1st March last.

The contention put forward by the Italian Government, on the broad principle of international law, is that when a territory is transferred from one Power to another the natives of that territory acquire the nationality of the State to which the cession is made.

I would, however, observe that, prior to the cession in full sovereignty of the Benadir Coast to Italy, the inhabitants of the country cannot be said to have possessed a separate national existence. The Benadir Coast formed part of the mainland dominions of the Sultan of Zanzibar, and the natives were Zanzibaris. There would thus appear to be no logical reason why those natives who became domiciled in the island dominions of the Sultan before the Benadir became Italian should be compelled to accept Italian nationality.

His Majesty's Government readily admit that those natives who continued to reside on the Benadir Coast after its cession should be held to have settled there and become Italian subjects, but they regret that they cannot share the view of the Italian Government that the same principle should be held to apply to those natives who settled in the islands before the Benadir Coast was ceded to Italy.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) E. GREY.

[2543 ← 1]