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REC'D  
REG 12 FEB 10

EAST AFR. POST  
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Foreign  
1910  
11 Feb  
East previous Paper  
29/8

S. Abyssinian Frontier

Leads disp. fr. Adm. Ababa recording comm. with  
S. P. proceed <sup>reference</sup> re-arrangement for control of  
frontier. - Draws attention to remarks as to  
employment of Abyssinian regular on the frontier.

W. Read.

Our Minister at Addis Ababa points out  
the difficulties which will arise if K.A.R. troops  
be he also Gwynn's line is accepted the Abyssinian  
are used on the frontier to do some of the  
things which W. Gathens & his men have  
done in the past. At the same time he  
F.O. dwell (in <sup>reference</sup> connection) on the importance  
of making the Abyssinians respect the  
frontier and protecting the natives on the  
British side of the boundary from being  
raided at will & without warning from the  
Abyssinians to accept Major Gwynn's  
line.

copy for land comm. 22 Feb  
B/A copy left 20 inst 22 Feb  
to Texas 7/10/10

4551

introduce Lt Zappero. It is quite con-  
ceivable that, with a few of his old  
regulars & backed by a regular British  
force and British administration at  
the central point of Fort Harrington, he  
may be able to go on doing the sort of  
work he has been doing in the past, only  
even more effectively and thoroughly & that  
he will no longer be dependent entirely  
on bluff. This would be a very useful  
part to play pending the final acceptance  
of Major Gwynne's line by the Abyssinians  
which it may take years to secure.

Everyone is agreed as to the excellence  
of the work which Lt Zappero has done in  
the past & the plea it would be if his  
services could not still be utilized.

Look to the Govt with suggestions  
in this sense, & also ask him what  
arrangements he can suggest for  
permitting the officer in charge of the  
frontier district to communicate direct  
with Addis Ababa in cases in which

the right  
to be left  
about the  
it is called  
very hard  
p. 28

This course would be advanced upon  
subject always. The principle that  
officer is responsible to the Gov of the  
E. I. P. and the Gov of the trip  
to the Gov (30) Part

58

Mr. Fisher

Lo. 10/11/11

A. J. R.

10/11

10/15/11

10/15/11

I agree. It seems to me that  
it would be better to wait  
for Japan's unique knowledge  
of the plan seems to be the  
opening for her attention.  
C. H. I.

If any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 4132/10

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

4248

12 FEB 10

FOREIGN OFFICE

February 11, 1910.

Sir:-

With reference to your letter 41187 of January 4th last respecting the control of the Southern frontier of Abyssinia, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa on the subject.

I am to request you to draw the attention of the Earl of Crewe to Mr. Theodor's remarks in regard to the employment on the frontier of Abyssinian irregulars.

Sir,

Your most obedient,

W. D. Langley

W. D. Langley

The Under-Secretary of State,  
Colonial Office.

60

4248

REC'D  
FEB 12 1910

4132

FEB 5 1910

British Legation,

Adis Ababa, January 10 1910.

Sir

With reference to the Southern Frontier question I have the honour to report that on leaving Fort Harrington Mr Zaphiro was informed by Captain Rakret who relieved him that his instructions were to send back his escort of sixty men of the King's African Rifles as soon as Mr Zaphiro could enlist and send down from Adis Ababa twenty-five Abyssinian irregulars to take their place. These men were engaged but before they could be sent off a letter was received from Captain Rakret stating that an order had reached him that Mr Zaphiro was to remain with his men if would not be necessary to use the Abyssinians.

Mr Zaphiro consequently held back these men until my arrival. I then telegraphed to Sir Percy Girouard stating as the Abyssinians were alarmed at the sudden placing of

Yours

Belmont

W. E. Grey, Bart., M.P.

Foreign Office

regular troops or the herd at a time when the exact  
 definition of the frontier was a little hazy. It is  
 it might be better to keep to the previous arrangement  
 of the militia of Abyssinians to replace them. It  
 does not seem that he would not care to authorize this  
 without consultation with Captain Barrett whose position,  
 without regular troops might be difficult if no danger.  
 As I was informed that the Abyssinian Government had told  
 off soldiers to which our troops I should be disposed  
 suggesting that at least the regulars could be sent  
 to the Abyssinian frontiers for patrol work on  
 the territory as the Abyssinians will certainly  
 object to allow regular troops to enter their territory  
 by friendly agreement had been secured to our satisfaction  
 pending the final settlement of the line, on saying that  
 I would wait for his reply to see if he would disband them.

In this telegram no direct answer has been received  
 unless a few lines referring to the line and the  
 at various times, but I should be pleased to see his administrative  
 and judicial powers.

Although the permanent occupation of the line by a  
 regular frontier force is most necessary and cannot be  
 arranged

arranged for too soon, I am strongly of the opinion, that  
usual ~~Wynn's~~ Wynn's line is definitely adopted it is most  
essential that we should do nothing to arouse Abyssinian  
suspicion or to create incidents on the border.

If Captain Barrett's force is merely to occupy Moyale  
and to patrol south of the red line no difficulties need  
be anticipated, but on the other hand if Mr. Fabbro's  
system of using wells on the Abyssinian side of this line  
in his patrols and of crossing into Abyssinian territory  
in the course of these patrols to discuss matters with  
local chiefs is allowed by Captain Barrett with regular  
frequency it will ~~add~~ add very great ~~to~~ to his part to avoid  
raising suspicion as to British motives or to prevent  
dispute with the rather irresponsible bands of Abyssinian  
soldiers which will be told off to watch him and see that  
he does not cross into districts which, until the  
settlement, he looks on as Abyssinian ground.

It was for these reasons that I sent ~~him~~ ~~to~~ to  
Captain Barrett explaining why I had suggested to Sir Percy  
Girouard the necessity of his having Abyssinian irregulars  
under him, and expressing the hope that he would see the  
matter in the same light.

What ever

The over ex-amount is finally come to for the UN-  
 that of the border it will be necessary that the effect in  
 amount should be authorized to deal directly with this  
 location on all frontier matters concerning Abyssinia, as  
 the only occasioned in such cases by sending records to  
 Addis for transmission to Addis Ababa must always be  
 inconvenient and might at times be harmful.

With regard to your telegram of the 7th instant not  
 to allow Mr Zapiro to resume his former duties on his  
 return, you leave without further instructions, I venture  
 to hope that this does not imply that his services are to  
 be dispensed with.

It would I consider be very difficult to replace him  
 as his knowledge of the frontier district and of the  
 various races inhabiting it, together with his acquaint-  
 ance with the principal dialects, customs and political  
 tendencies of the people is certainly unique.

We have however established by now years here some  
 under very difficult circumstances, a definite position  
 there and his friendship with the various Abyssinian chiefs  
 on the border as his mastery of their language and of  
 Abyssinian law would enable him to give invaluable aid to  
 any

any officer who might be placed in command at Moyale.

Mr Zaphiro fully realized that in any rearrangement of the frontier control he would not hope to have the chief command but he would I think be satisfied with a subordinate position if it were permanent and included a rise on his present scale of pay with a fixed increment.

All these things were certainly definitely promised him by Sir John Harrington but his pledges were never redeemed.

I would therefore ask that Mr Zaphiro's claim for re-employment should not be overlooked as I am most confident that his services would be of great utility and would very largely facilitate all future dealings with the Abyssinians on the frontier.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant

E.A.R. 4245

C.D.  
19 FEB  
1910

DRAFT

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

Downing Street,

CONFIDENTIAL

7 / February, 1910.

Governor

Colonel Sir Percy Girouard, K.C.B., C.S.I.,

MINUTE.

- Mr. Butler, Feb. 18
- Mr. Keed 18
- Mr. Fiddes
- Mr. Just
- Mr. Cox
- Sir C. Lucas
- Sir F. Hopwood
- Col. Seely
- Lord Crewe

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit to you, with reference to my confidential despatch of the 14th of February, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Foreign Office with its enclosure, relating to the arrangements for the administration of the districts in the neighbourhood of the Abyssinian boundary.

I recognise the difficulties described in my despatch of the 14th of January which are likely to arise

From

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by Treas 7 May 13/10

that he would in future no longer be dependent entirely on his own resources. This would be a very useful part to play pending the final acceptance of Major Wynne's line by the Abyssinians <sup>Set</sup> which it may take a considerable time to secure.

4. I should be glad if you would consider this suggestion ~~very~~ <sup>carefully</sup> and I trust that you will be able to make some recommendation which will have the result of retaining Mr. Zappino's services. In that event I ~~shall~~ <sup>have</sup> be glad to learn precisely what arrangements you propose, and what salary you think, in your opinion, be suitable for him. You will no doubt consider at the same time whether, if an arrangement of this ~~kind~~ <sup>kind</sup> ~~sort~~ is adopted, it will not be possible to reduce ~~the~~ corresponding ~~amount~~ the cost of the arrangements which you have already proposed. You will see that Mr. Theisger observes in his despatch that whatever arrangement is come to for the control of the border, it will be necessary that the officer