



C. O. 31513

273

FOREIGN OFFICE,

October 14 1916.

277/10

Sir:-

270
29084

Mr. Thesiger
has left!

With reference to my letter of the 13th ult. respecting the Southern Frontier of Abyssinia, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Adis Ababa reporting an interview with the Fitaurari Hapta Giorgis respecting Abyssinian raids into British territory.

Sir E. Grey would propose, with the concurrence of the Earl of Crews, to approve Mr. Thesiger's language as therein reported. With regard to the question of a cession to France of the hinterland of Zaila, I am to suggest that Mr. Thesiger should be told that no negotiations have even been entered upon or are proceeding with the French Government for the transfer of Zaila or its hinterland.

but

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.



(36477/10)

289

but that it would be added confidentially that though
no such negotiations are in progress or are expected, he
must not use language which would bind His Majesty's
Government never to contemplate them.

Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

W. Randolph

31519

35477

REC-1
OCT 15 1910

OCT 1910

BRITISH LEGATION.

281

APIC APABA.

1 SEPTEMBER 1910.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch to My Lord.

I had an interview on Friday last with the Fitzgari, Napi, Giorgis, and impressed on him the absolute necessity of putting a stop to the raids on our territory, pointing out that in the last few months there had been raids over every portion of the Southern Frontier from Dala to Lake doth, and that while they were always making for appearances from us that our frontier troops would not cross to the North of the two lakes, they allowed their hunters, soldiers, and natives to hunt and raid as far as 100 miles south of this line.

The Fitzgari acknowledged that he had practically no control over the Lake doth and the other tribes, and that it was difficult to keep the hunters in hand.

This admission led me to insist on the absolute necessity of putting a stop to the raids, as they should have a regular force to patrol, and I reminded him that these raids had been going on for five years in spite of continual protests from this Government that were made, in consequence of orders from His Highness, some of these raiding bands had been punished and their leaders punished, but were always coming back to our territory immediately afterwards.

SIR A. GUCK, VAND. P.V.

NO. 10. 10.

Good relations between the two countries and that our patience in this connection had limits, warning him at the same time that, willing as I was to arrange matters on a friendly footing, if they persisted in refusing to come to an agreement over the frontier, His Majesty's Government would certainly not allow the present state of things to continue, and would take the necessary action to stop it.

I also wrote to the Viceroy in the same sense on the advice of Mr. Selassarré with whom I have had one or two conversations on the subject. Mr. Selassarré, in his position of legal adviser to the Government, could be of great assistance to me in this connection, and has promised to do what he can to induce the Council to look at matters in a reasonable light.

I have asked for another meeting with the Council, and hope that my conversation with the Viceroy will have had the effect.

In connection with this discussion I want mention the Abyssinian Government and a number of reports of reports which come up from Cassar so that the French Government is treating for the cessation of hostilities and the land.

I have written him that I do not believe that we should credit these reports with any real foundation.

At the same time I would not see any objection to my giving a definite assurance that His Majesty's Government is not considering any such cession of territory.

As I have reported before, the Abyssinian Government are certain that we should hold that matter in a definite

the sea, but would have been sent, it being handed over to
any other country.

I have the honor, Sir,

with the highest respects,

to remain, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant.

20
215/19/10
CAP

DRAFT.

U.S. of S
20

25 Oct 10

MINUTE 19/10

- Mr. Noall 22/10
- Mr. Butler 22/10
- Mr. Fiddis.
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Cox.
- Sir C. Lucas.
- Sir F. Hopwood.
- Col. Seely.
- Lord Crewe.

Sir

I am directed by
the E of Crewe to ask
the receipt of your letter
of 30/7/10 of the 10th of
Oct. & to state, for the
info of Secy Sir E Grey
that his lordship concurs
in the terms of the reply
which it is proposed to

20/10/10

27. to be written