

EAST AFR. PROT.

C.O.
6735

Rec^d
Feb 24 1909

6735

of Individual

Foreign

1909

23 Feb 7

Previous Paper

affairs in abyssinia

In copy of despatch of Rome re conduct of late French Minister at Adis Ababa + as to the attitude of the French Govt. towards the arms traffic

M^r Antrobus

This bears out what I have recently said in a minute regarding the attitude of the French with respect to the arms traffic. I wonder how much longer we are going to take this sort of thing sitting.

Part by ?

H. J. R.

24/2

26 Feb 24

Ch. P. G.
Gen. G.

To See

25.2

See 25.2

256 II

Subsequent Paper

50/10

C. O.
6735
REC
FEB 24 1909

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. 5860
and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

original

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents
his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for the
Colonies and, by direction of the Secretary of State,
transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office.

February 23, 1909.

Reference to previous letter:

Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
----------------	----------

Sir R. Rodd, Rome,

Abyssinia

No. 2 Africa (Conf)

Conduct of late French Ministers

Feb. 8.

at Adis Ababa & Arms Traffic

C. O.

6735

75

ROLLS

REC

24 FEB 09

5860

8th February 1909.

FEB 13 1909

Confidential.

No. 2. Sir,

Africa.

I have the honour to report that after communicating to me the information which the Italian Government had received from their Agent in Abyssinia, as reported in my despatch No. 1 Africa of the 24th instant, Signor Agnesa, Director of the Colonial Department of the Italian Foreign Office, went on to speak of the general situation in that country. I found that he entirely shared the news expressed by Sir John Harrington in his memorandum forwarded to you on the 6th of December last, with regard to the disloyal manner in which the late French Envoy at Adis Abeba had interpreted his duties under the Tripartite Agreement of December 1906. He assumed, however, in extenuation of the attitude of the French Government that Monsieur Klobowski had gone beyond his instructions and had utilized his position to further his own aims and ambitions.

Signor Agnesa also spoke forcibly on the subject of the importation of arms which he considered the French Government

As Pt. Kouble,

showed

Sir E. Grey Bart. M.P.

(2)

showed no earnest desire to stop. He said that a former Governor of Jibuti, Monsieur Fonhouse, had in his room at the Italian Foreign Office admitted that the trade in arms was the only thing which kept Jibuti going and that if it were suppressed it would become necessary to make very large provision from the estimates for the administration the cost of which was now covered by the import duties. He proposed to pay me a visit shortly and discuss the whole question of the arms traffic.

I have the honour to be,

with the highest respect, Sir,

your most obedient,

Humble servant,

(sd) Russell Rodd

(8)

showed no earnest desire to stop. He said that a former Governor of Jibuti, Monsieur Forhouse, had in his room at the Italian Foreign Office admitted that the trade in arms was the only thing which kept Jibuti going and that if it were suppressed it would become necessary to make very large provision from the estimates for the administration the cost of which was now covered by the import duties. He proposed to pay me a visit shortly and discuss the whole question of the arms traffic.

I have the honour to be,

with the highest respect, Sir,

your most obedient,

humble servant,

(sd) Russell Rodd