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1909

June

Previous Paper

10
16/93

S. Abyssinian frontier delimitation

Send copy to Adis Ababa regarding movements
 of Abyssinian Consuls & missions given to Dr.
 Zaphirio.

Copy to the D.A.S.C. of the S.A.P. with
 ref. to previous copy in copy d. 8

at once.

H. J. R.

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S.B.

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E.W. 2000/27
20-11-05

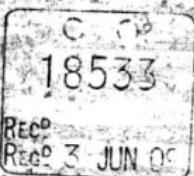
Subsequent Paper

1304

In any further communication
on this subject, please quote

No. 19228109

and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.



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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,

June 2 1909.

Reference to previous letter:

Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date.

Subject

Lord St. Helens
No. 29

April 28

Southern Frontier
Boundary Commission

BRITISH LEGATION REC'D
REG'D 3 JUN 06

ADIS ABABA

28th April 1909.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that Major Gwynn,
 who arrived here on the 20th instant, left yesterday with
 the other members of the Southern Frontier Boundary
 Commission en route for Dire Dawa.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and War, Negusras
 Haile Giorgis and Fitawari Haile Giorgis came to this
 Legation to discuss the present position of affairs, and
 Major Gwynn endeavoured to explain to them briefly the
 changes which had been made by him in the line as marked
 on the Treaty Map. They were informed that a full report
 and maps could not be furnished them for some months, and
 we endeavoured to dissuade them from sending Commissioners
 to the frontier at this juncture, as in the absence of

Sir Edward Grey, Bart., M.P.,
 etc., etc., etc.,

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full explanation the reasons for the changes made might not be clear to them. The responsibility for differences of opinion was laid upon the Abyssinian Government for not having their Commissioners ready in time, and Major Gwynn insisted that in case of River-wards his line must be taken as correct.

Notwithstanding these comments, the Italian and the Abyssinian Commissioners would be sent as soon as they could get ready, as great expense had already been incurred and the services of Mr Schubert, their technical adviser, could not be retained indefinitely. After their return, the maps could be compared, and a decision come to.

In these circumstances, after consultation with Major Gwynn, I decided to instruct Mr Zaphiro, the Southbra Frontier Inspector, not to take official cognizance of the Abyssinian Commission, but only to do off some men who could ascertain the position of the beacons already placed, and take them over the corrected boundary as far as Moyale. Beyond a point slightly west of Moyale, as already explained, Major Gwynn found the red line marked on the map to constitute so impossible a frontier, that he placed no more beacons, and his proposals on this point

will depend on the ultimate decision of the Colonial
Office as to the permanent patrolling of the line.

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

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

(S, Herbert Hervey)