

DOMESTIC

EAST AFR. PROT.  
35207

NO. 35207  
OCT 27 1909

Foreign  
1909

Affairs on S. Abyssinian Frontier.

26 Oct.  
Previous Paper.  
22229

Sends despatch from Adis Ababa showing unusually serious state of affairs & urgent need of permanent force to control the line. Mr. Zephiris & his small band although doing excellent work are quite unable to cope with the situation...

Off a copy aft 2-0 11 Nov  
Subsequent Paper

Mr. Fiddes. Send a copy of this copy to the gov. with refer to our Conf. despatch of the 27<sup>th</sup> of Aug: on 24365 & remind him that we are expecting a report from him on the whole question of the policing measures to be taken for the protection of the frontier - & send copy of our despatch to the gov. for info. 29.7.?

H. J. R.

P. W. H. M.

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26632

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C. O.

35207

REC.  
REG: 27 OCT 09

*20/10/09*

In any further communica-  
on on this subject, please quote  
No. 39063109  
The Under-Secretary of State,  
Foreign Office,  
London.

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 copies of the under-mentioned papers.

Foreign Office.

*October 26* 1909.

Reference to previous letter:

Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date.

Subject.

*Lord H. Hervey (Adm. Abaka)*

*No. 62*

*September 24*

*No. 63*

*October 1*

*Abyssinian Southern  
Frontier*

(Similar letter sent to )

BRITISH LEGATION,

ADIS ABABA,

24th September 1909.

C. C.  
35207REC  
REC-27 OCT 09

Sir:-

I have the honour to report that Despatches received to-day from Mr. Zaphiro, British Inspector on the Abyssinian Southern Frontier, reveal a worse state of things than usual.

He reports over two thousand hunters in the Golbo and in the vicinity of Fort Harrington, who daily loot the defenceless Boran natives in British territory; if these show any signs of resistance in protecting their homes and their stock, they are shot down without mercy. Four natives belonging to Mankata, a Boran village about four miles south of Churre Moyale, were killed at the beginning of this month, and two others severely wounded. Mr. Zaphiro, who was in Golbo, some thirty miles distant, started off at once to track the murderers, but they rapidly dispersed amongst the other hunters, and it was impossible to identify them.

Herr

Mr Edward Grey, Bart.,  
&c., &c., &c.

Herr Schubert of the Abyssinian Boundary Commission, is reported to be surveying in the neighbourhood of El Der; nothing has yet been heard of the missing Balambaras Asseghed.

Mr Zaphiro complains of the conduct of Balambaras Walda Gabriel, who is intimidating the natives in British territory from Jarra to Gadaduma, obliging them to bring him bullocks and camels, and chaining up those who refuse. Natives who cross the line to water their animals in accordance with their treaty rights, are beaten, and forced to go several days' march northwards with their animals. Mr. Zaphiro remonstrated with Negadras Tanagasha, but he refused to interfere, saying that Walda Gabriel was the Chief of the country.

News had also arrived that Walda Gabriel's soldiers had crossed the line with instructions to arrest and chain up all the native chiefs at Debel, and bring them north. Mr. Zaphiro was, at the time of his writing, on the point of leaving for Debel to protect the people.

I am making strong representations on the subject of all these outrages to the Abyssinian Government, and am awaiting an opportunity to see Fitaurari Hapla Giorgis, but such representations produce but little effect. Promises are made,

perhaps

perhaps enquiries are instituted, some soldiers may be sent to the spot for a few days and possibly a minor chief receives a nominal punishment. Shortly afterwards the same abuses recommence.

The only hope of securing comparative immunity for our tribes near the frontier is to institute, without further delay, the long-talked-of force to patrol the line. Mr. Zaphiro, with his small escort, although doing excellent work in turning off small bands of marauders, is quite unable to cope with bodies consisting of hundreds and even thousands of men, and the tribes in British territory are losing heart and faith in the British Government, whose promises to protect them remain so long unfulfilled.

I have &c.,

(Signed) Herbert Hervey.

ADDIS ABABA

C. O.  
35207  
Rtd.  
REC'D 27 OCT 09

1st October 1909.

39063

OCT 27 1909

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 62. of the 24th ultimo relative to affairs on the Abyssinian Southern Frontier, I have the honour to report that I last week had an opportunity of seeing Fitaurari Bapte Giorgis, and personally represented matters to him.

The Fitaurari informed me that he had already given orders to Fitaurari Waldi to despatch several hundred soldiers to the frontier, with instructions to arrest any Abyssinians found to have been trespassing in British territory. The alleged murders of Moran natives would be investigated, and punishment inflicted and compensation ordered in accordance with local custom.

With regard to Mr Zaphiro's complaints against Balambaras Walda Gabriels, a letter had just been received from the latter, emphatically denying that any natives on

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ard Grey, Bart., M.P.,

Etc., Etc.,

the British side of the line had been interfered with: 387

he added that he made this statement as he was aware that Mr Zaphiro was bringing accusations against him. The Vitaurari said the whole matter could be investigated when Mr Zaphiro came up, and he would in the meantime have enquiries made on the spot and issue renewed stringent instructions for British natives to be left unmolested.

I have not the slightest doubt as to the accuracy of Mr Zaphiro's statements, and should the Abyssinian Boundary Commission endeavour to alter the frontier dividing the tribes as marked out by Major Gwynn, Mr Zaphiro's allegations and my official protest will be on record.

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

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(S) Herbert Hervey

To CAP.  
35707

8 Nov 09

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Mr. Innes

DRAFT.

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Mr. Cuf

Sir P. firmard

MINUTE.

- Mr. #318 Cuf
- Mr. Butler
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Antrobus.
- Mr. Cox.
- Sir C. Lucas.
- Sir F. Hopwood.
- Col. Seely.
- The Earl of Crewe.

With reference to  
my copy despatch of the  
27th of August, I have  
the honour to transmit to  
you, for your information, the  
two accompanying copies of  
a note from the J.O.  
concerning copies of desps.  
from the chaps' d'affaires  
at Adis Ababa relative  
to affairs in the Abyssinian  
frontier.  
As you are aware from the  
desp referred to above,  
I am expecting to  
receive from you in due  
course a report on the

J.O. 76 Oct

by the J.O. with it.

B/la 11 Nov