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Bellfield 255

1916
June 10

Last previous Paper.
Gov.
30113

SITUATION IN N.F. DISTRICT

Trs memo. for week ended 3rd June.

See on 32600

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Admiral
C. Jones (dear)
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See on 32600

Next subsequent Paper.
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AFRICA PROTECTORATE.
No. 355.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

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REC^d
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June 10th, 1916.

Sir,

In continuation of my despatch No. 318 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a further memorandum for the week ending the 3rd June summarising the events in connection with the Somali unrest in the Northern territories of the Protectorate.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

H. Conroy, Secretary

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
ANDREW BONAR LAW, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S. W.

502
30113
Memorandum

PRECIS FOR WEEK ENDING

SATURDAY June 3rd.

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THE DETAILS.

(i) On the 27th the ~~message~~ of the letter written by Abdurrahman Mursaal to the King was received, vide Precis for the week ending February 19th I (c). It is for the most part a complaint against the alleged partiality shown by Lieutenant Elliot to the Marehan.

(ii) On the same day a letter from the Acting Provincial Commissioner, Kismayu dated the 24th reported that the Mohamed Zubeir and Hertl are quiet that the Aulihan are reported to be in Genoli and to have left the river, though some sections are thought to be still near Serenli, and that there is no danger of the Marehan joining the Aulihan. An unconfirmed report has been received that the Marehan have looted 100 camels and killed 3 Aulihan.

The Goshia district South of Farnoli is very quiet. Toward ^{Island} is again flooded and a bad harvest is anticipated.

(iii) On the 31st a letter dated Archer's Post May 18th was received from Mr. Kittermaster. In it he states that he has authorized Mr. Llewellyn to go forward to Wajheir with 40 men only under certain circumstances. His reasons were, that he understood the policy of the Government to be directed towards the isolation of the Aulihan and that therefore some show must be made by the Government at Wajheir before the rainy season was well advanced. Otherwise the Mohamed Zubeir would already have joined the Aulihan or would have rebuffed them without assistance. Major Rigby's

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inability to move until the police stores had arrived meant that his force would not get to Wajheir until the middle of June at the earliest.

Mr. Llewellyn was therefore authorised to proceed to Wajheir or not at his discretion, as his movements depended entirely on the information he received from time to time. In the event of his going there he was to take the greatest precautions and was not to attempt to enter the station until he had put himself into communication with Hadji Hassan and learnt whether he thought it advisable for him to come.

He was of course forbidden to go if the Aulihan had already entered the Wajheir area, but it seemed to Mr. Kittermaster that if they had not yet done so and young men of the Mohamed Zubeir were beginning to get restless, the appearance of a Government Officer with a force armed with magazine rifles and more mules than had ever been there before would cause them to hesitate.

Mr. Llewellyn was instructed to regard his journey as more in the nature of a reconnaissance than re-occupation and that his object was not to engage the Aulihan but to strengthen Hadji Hassan's hands during the critical period.

From Mr. Kittermaster's latest information he gathers that the Ajuran are still around Wajheir to the north so that even if the situation should develop unfavourably after his arrival Mr. Llewellyn would have a good chance of withdrawing through their country to Buna.

(iv) On the 1st of June two letters were received from

from the Major High dated May 11th. He asks for a reserve of six months supplies to be sent as early as possible in addition to the three months supplies which arrived on May 22nd, and proposes to move two companies and the maxim gun to Wajheir, taking 60 loads of ammunition and his present stock of supplies. He intends to obtain if possible an alternative route to Wajheir on what is roughly a North East line from the Uase Nyiro. He expects to be able to obtain water on this route by digging; if so the distance to Wajheir will be shortened considerably.

(v) On the same day a letter dated May 26 was received from Mr. Kittermaster discussing the Westward immigration of Somali tribes. The position is that having evacuated the Garreh country he is not prepared to resume administration of it unless he can guarantee adequate protection to the members of the tribe resident on the Dana River. The pressure is from two sides, from the Marehan and the Abyssinian Dagodia. Mr. Kittermaster thinks there would be little difficulty in forcing back the Marehan provided that strong assistance were given by the officers in Jubaland, but the question of the Dagodia is more difficult and would require a force of at least 30 men continually on the Dana River. For this, better communications with Dale and Serendi are essential.

II. DISPOSITION OF OFFICERS.

Lieut. Payne has been sent to Nairobi on sick leave.

III. DISPOSITION OF SOMALI TRIBES. No. change but vide

I (ii) above.

IV. DECISIONS ARRIVED AT AND ACTION TAKEN.

The question raised in I (v) above will be considered next week.