

Italo-Ethiopian Dispute

Kenya Aspects

Part II

Previous

Part I

Subsequent

426 file.

297

24/12/35

1/2/36

24/12

298

21/12/35

297

11/1/36

2

1.1

6/1/36

2/1

247

2

111 To Kenya Sec 262 — 8 Nov 1935

Requests confirmation that I.A.F. detachment is under command of Brigade Commander.

See Nairobi 7 letter to Wing Com. Pirie

Wait: B.U. on Tuesday if nothing in.

Whee 8

112 To Wing Comr DC Pirie — 8. 11. 35

A/M are still awaiting the views of the A.O.C., Middle East. They hope to obtain these tomorrow and to let us have a decision then. B.U. on the 14th.

Whee 12/11
at ...

M. Flynn

You agreed that we should telegraph to Kenya on the lines of the annexed draft, which is self-explanatory and in which Wing Com. Pirie has concurred.

Whee 14/11

Major Cole

I think we must do this. A/M have had letters from their man in Kenya to the effect that there is no

Local friction or difficulty of any kind but they won't say anything until they've got the views of Air Marshal Brooke-Popham and he won't give any views until his staff officer has gone to Kenya to discuss. But it is amazing

I think W.O. should have the com^o also last they accuse us of bad faith. It commits nobody.

J.S.O. Flood

14.11.35.

Yes & I think we should know what is going on.

As regards the principle of the matter I do not.

See how the A/M can object to the RAF withdrawal in Kenya ^{in any} ^{order} ^{being} under the operational scope & command of the

of Troops. The land forces in Palestine and Trans-

Jordan are under the operational order of the Air Officer Commanding. The underlying responsibility is

Kenya regards with the R.A.F. It is just possible that it is the word "Command" which is

bothering the A/M. If we added "for operational & defence purposes" it might (I do not say would)

help to clear things up. Obviously, the R.A.F. do not want a S.A.C. interfering with administration of the detail

P.H. Cole

16.11.35

112 To Gov Kenya tel No 322 - 14th Nov 1935

114 To W.O. (w/c 111 + 113) B/A - 16.11.35

115 Wg Cdr Percie A/M 1/2A (w/c 113) - 16.11.35

116 EBB Speed, Treasury, G/O - 16 Nov 35 ³

Enclose copy of note of proceedings at meeting at Treasury on 13 November to discuss incidence of cost of emergency measures

117 To EBB Speed, Treasury G/O (116 Amend) - 18 Nov 1935

118 To A.F. Newling, W.O. G/O (w/c 117) - 18 Nov 1935
~~DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE~~

119 To Gov. tel 332 - COMS - 18.11.35

120 A.F. Newling G/O - 18.11.35

See copy of note to M. Speed.

People's Rep
and of 119

121 Wing Commander G. (AM) - 20.11.35
^{reference opinion} ~~that~~ that it would not be desirable to place RAF unreservedly under the local Brigade Commander

R. Freeston.

Regw Cole.

The his Air is very and being most unaccountable and (5 very much) uncommencing at this. And with 121 does not take us very much further. And I do not see that there is anything that we can do for the

...and ... (1) ...
Borne. ... (2) ...
... for the Gov. as a result of
his discussions with his Commanders
Borne. If the A/M maintain
the ... point ... we shall
have ... to ... the Gov.
... whether the compromise
arrangement suggested will be acceptable
to him, or whether he would wish
us to press for the same arrangement
in Kenya as in ...

? Wait for the present.

Y. Lee 22/11

B. ...

The Air Ministry ... together to the
point. It is not, I assume, proposed to place the
R.A.F. detachment in Kenya at the permanent disposal
of the O.C.N. Bde but only to ensure that while the
detachment is in Kenya it should be under the opera-
tional orders of the officer responsible for the
defence of Kenya & Uganda, viz, the O.C.N. Bde K.A.R.

It still remains a detachment from Aden and for ...
administrative purposes still under the A.O.C.M. East.

It will be a difficult & impossible position if
the officer on whom the responsibility rests for
the defence of Kenya can have no operational control
over a portion of the forces available for that object.

The detachment of the British Army in Palestine
comes under the operational control of the A-O-C.
there, also the T.J.F.F.

Placing the R.A.F. detachment at the disposal of the
military commander in Kenya, while it is there, does

4
not interfere with the right of the R.A.F. detach-
ment Commander to report to the A.O.C. Middle East if
he considers that the air force is being unsuitably
employed and it is inconceivable that the O.C.N. Bde
would order any Air operation to be carried out
against the expert advice of the R.A.F. commander.

I wonder what the Air Ministry would think if we
contended that the T.J.F.F. were, for operational
purposes, directly responsible to the Colonial Office.

Also, the placing of the RAF detachment within the
scope of the responsibility of the O.C.N. Bde for
defence operations, while it is stationed within
that command, does not prejudice the general consid-
eration of the disposal of the M.E. Air Forces. That
is a matter which would be decided according to the
general war requirements by the Air Staff. If the
RAF detachment had to be withdrawn from Kenya it
would cease to be within the operational responsibility
of the O.C. Kenya defence & that is all there is to
it as far as this particular question is concerned.

I agree that we can only wait for the present.
I suggest that we should let know w/o the provisional
views of the A/M ...

P. Cole

23/11/50

X
I can see what the A/M are afraid of. It is not
having their man put under the O.C. Brigade but that the
Air O.C. Middle East might not be able to get him back
if ~~they~~ an emergency arose as to which the said Air
O.C. & not Kenya or the Brigade Commander must be the
judge. We can only
wait & tell W.O. (S.O. letter to Col. ...)
J.E.G. Hood

25/11.

X But that, as Major ... points out,
would be an overriding consideration.

Sr. J. ...

We can only wait, ... but
we should see ... The A.M. idea
is that the Brigade Commander, in
making his plans for combined action

to Kenya, shall say "please, if
you don't mind" both this time.

I suppose we are today to have
them, even if we can't rely on
them.

W.C.S.

25.11.35

Wait, as proposed.

John
25/11

122 Gov Kenya Lec 272 Secret — 25. 11. 35.

Reports agreement reached with the Commodore Bromet
subject to confirmation by the O.C. Chief Middle East for use of
RAF detachment under O.C. Northern Brigade for Dombai operations
intelligence purposes. Early decision requested.

123 Gov Kenya Lec 276 Secret — 26. 11. 35

Amends wording of No 122.

It is rather odd that in No.123 the
Governor should suggest the deletion of the
words "under myself" from No.122. I feel
reasonably certain that it is intended that the
beginning of the second sentence of the
Governor's telegram should read "Commander
Northern Brigade, under myself as Commander-in-
Chief, should be in command"... etc. I suggest
that the telegram should be sent to the Air
Ministry in this form. It is satisfactory that
agreement has been possible between the
Governor and Air Commodore Bromet on this subject,
and the arrangement as set out in the
Governor's

Governor's telegram seems to me a reasonable and
practical one.

? I might write in the first instance to the
Air Ministry as in the draft herewith.

W.C.S.

26/11

I think that the deletion of the words "under
myself" is deliberate and that the beginning of
the second sentence of the telegram should read:-
"Commander Northern Brigade as Commander-in-Chief."

Although the Governor is the titular Commander-in-
Chief he does not take the immediate direction of
any military operations. See K.A.R. Regs, paras 15,16.

The responsibility for the conduct of any opera-
tions rests solely with the officer commanding. The
Governor defines the object and scope; in this case
it is the defence of Kenya.

I have spoken with Mr Lee who agrees.

The arrangement set out in the telegram seems to
be quite satisfactory and workable. It follows the
lines of what I had in mind in my minute of 23.11.35.

? as proposed.

P.S. Lee

27. 11. 35

W.C.S.
27

Yes: this should work in practice and I think the A/M
will find it agreeable.

The Air Officer C. in C. will be able to get at the point
and take it away if he wants to - which meets my point.

J.E.S. H.D.

27. 11.

W.C.S. 27. 11. 35

At an.

John
27/11

125 To King under Sec 114 (w/c 122) 29. 11. 35

3/12/35
deat to Nigeria

Mr. Downie.

Please see paragraph 4(b) of the enclosure to No. 116.

Hitherto no communication has been sent to Nigeria about the incidence of cost of any abnormal expenditure incurred on preparing troops for possible service in either Kenya or Somaliland, since just at the time when I was beginning to prepare a despatch we were faced with the possibility that the original plan - one battalion standing by for possible service in Kenya for the maintenance of internal security there - might be replaced by something much more drastic.

The present position is, as you know, that it is most improbable that West African troops will be required in either Kenya or Somaliland at all. I have discussed with Mr. Speed the question of whether it would not be more appropriate to regard whatever abnormal expenditure may have been incurred in Nigeria in preparing troops for service overseas as a charge against Somaliland funds rather than against Kenya funds, even though for some months the Nigerian Battalion was regarded as being the reserve for Kenya. Mr. Speed fully agreed that it would be more appropriate to regard such expenditure as a charge against Somaliland funds - this procedure has the advantage, from the Nigerian point of view, of making repayment from the Imperial Exchequer quite certain.

In

In the circumstances I suggest that we might take action as in the drafts herewith.

Speed

16.12.35.

M. Downie

16.12.35

16.12.35

125 To Mr Speed (w/c draft tel) 16.12.35

LN

126 Speed (Treasury) 9/0 20 Dec 1935

Considers proposed charging of cost of preparation of W.A. troops for Kenya or Somaliland against Somaliland funds is most convenient & substantially justified suggests minor modification of draft tel.

127. A.M. 535493/17/56 20 Dec '35

Agrees that Commande Northern Brigade should, for period of present emergency be in command of RA F. detachments for border operations but reserves right to transfer command to His Officer Commanding in Chief in certain eventualities.

M. Downie

126. ? Africa as in the two drafts

Revised

Review later

may need that before communicating
 the decision of the Gov. in regard
 to Council the W.O. - especially
 as General Dill recently mentioned
 this as one of the matters in
 regard to which - he alleged - W.O.
 had been kept unnecessarily in the
 dark.

? Take action as in 128/35.

Three
 21/12/35.

W.D. Dennis
 23.12.35

P.S. de
 23.12.35

- 128 To Gov. Nigeria at. N9343. 23.12.35.
- 129 To E.S.S. Speed (Ty.) (Ltr 128) to } Secret
- 130 - Col. O. W.H. Leese (L50) to Comd. } 24/12/35
- (Ltr 122, 124, 127, etc. tel.)

130. W.O. (Jg. Nelson). 20. 24.12.35

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE & aspect of al. entered in (130).

Then the tel. can issue.

Three
 24/12

132 To Gov Kenya tel 363 - 24.12.35

133 to (M) etc 132 12/35

134 " 150.

135 Gov Kenya Tel 309 Secret - 31. Dec 1935
 Status arrangements proposed to B2 are
 satisfactory.

Copies to A/M W.O. L.F. ref 133-135

Rajiv Cole v. N. Flynn & co.
 P.S. Cole 3.1.36
 Three 31/12

136 To A/M } etc 135 B/1st 1.1.36
 137 " W/O. }

~~W.P. Good~~
~~W.P. Cole~~

133 Tel to Gov Kenya Mail Search card 17th Jan 1936
 to see. de 38066/7/36

COPY FOR REGISTRATION

CYPHER TELEGRAM from the Governor of Kenya to the
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Dated 31st December, 1935. Received 11.32 A.M., 31st Dec.

No. 309. Secret.

132 Your No. 363. Arrangements satisfactory.

132

O. D. 27

Recd. 24/12 in case

~~SECRET TELEGRAM~~

Receipt

Recd. Sent 7/27 8/24/12

GOVERNOR,
NAIROBI.

No. 363 Secret

Your telegram No. 272 Air Council
agree to arrangement on following
understandings:-

(a) It is assumed that reference
in your telegram to "normal channel of
communication regarding matters of
administration" etc. relates only to
matters of purely local administration
which would be most conveniently dealt
with in manner proposed and that other
administrative matters would continue
to be dealt with direct with Head-
quarters Royal Air Force, Middle East,
as at present.

(b) Council reserve the right
in the event of an air threat from
Italian Somaliland to place existing
detachment (plus any additional air

forces

Copies to A/M W.O. L.F. 2/1

forces sent to Kenya) under command of
Air Officer Commanding in Chief, Royal
Air Force in the North East African area
to ensure proper coordination of air
operations in that area. In such an
event aircraft would continue to be
provided to meet the requirements of the
Brigade Commander if they could be spared
from the main operations.

C. O.

- Mr. Lee 21/12
- Major Cole
- Mr. Flood 23/12
- Sir C. Parkinson.
- Sir G. Tomlinson.
- Sir C. Bottomley.
- Sir J. Shuckburgh.
- Permt. U.S. of S.
- Parly. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

S.O. for R. Lees vis
Service and Insurance

13011

24 DEC 1935

My dear General,
 and. 101.

The enclosed
 correspondence shows the
 command of the R.A.F.
 detachment in Kenya is
 self explanatory.

You will see that,

for our part, we regard
 the proposed arrangement as
 satisfactory and acceptable, and
 we should propose to
 telegraph fortnite to Kenya
 on the lines of the
 enclosed draft. Before we

DRAFT.

Col. D.W.H. Lees
 (W.O.S.)

From Gen. Kenney 25/11
 To A/M ¹²² 21/11
 From A/M ¹²⁴ 20/12
 127
 Tel to Gen. (draft)

FURTHER ACTION.

38066/35

13 511

C. O.

S.O. for D. West sig

Letter via transatlantic

Very dear General,

24 DEC 1935

assd. 101.

Mr. Lee 21/12

Major Cole

Mr. Flood 23 *ffs.*

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

The enclosed

correspondence shows the

commitment of the R.A.F.

detachment in Kenya is

very expensive.

You will see that,

for our part, we regard

the proposed arrangements

which are acceptable, and

we should propose to

telegraph forward to Kenya

in the lines of the

enclosed copy before we

DRAFT.

Cdr. D.W.H. Heese

(W.O.).

From Gen. Kenyon 25/11

To A/M 122 25/11 as amended

From A/M 124 20/12

127

Tel to Gen. (copy to him)

FURTHER ACTION.

C.O.

- Mr. Lee 21/12
- Major Cole 23/2
- Mr. Frank 23 *same*
- Sir C. Parkinson 122.
- Sir G. Tomkinson
- Sir C. Bottomley
- Sir J. Shuckburgh
- Permt. U.S. of S.
- Parly. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

No. Secret 2

Your telegram no. 272

His Council agree to
arrangement on following
understandings :-

DRAFT. *rel. reception.*

Suena
Mind Ni

a) It is assumed that
reference in your telegram
to "normal channel of
communication regarding
matters of administration" etc
relates only to matters of
purely local administration
which would be most
conveniently dealt with in
manner proposed and that
other administration matters
would continue to be
dealt with direct with
... A.F. ...

FURTHER ACTION.

38066/35.

129

24 DEC 1935

C. O.

Security 202

Mr. Lee 21/12

Mr. Donnie 23/12 J

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Stuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

My dear Speed,

Many thanks for
your letter of the 20th

December about the
abnormal expenditure
incurred by Nigeria on

training troops for service in
E. Africa. We have

answered the Anglo

telegram in accordance with

your suggestion, and I
enclose a copy of it as
sent.

I should like to

say that we agree with

DRAFT.

E.B.B. Speed by M.C.

Tel to Nigeria
copy h.w. (128)

OTHER ACTION.

~~Dear Mr. G. O.~~

to be your view the
an arrangement whereby
such expenditure ^{was} ~~was~~ regarded
as a charge against Somaliland
cannot be justified, not on
the grounds of convenience alone,
but also on the basis of
fact. I am sorry the
my letter of the 18th December
was not clearer on this point.
As I think you know,
the original idea was that
the Nigerian battalion might
have to be sent to Somaliland
to assist in the preservation
of internal security there.

C. O.

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Sir C. Parkinson.
- Sir G. Tomlinson.
- Sir C. Bottomley.
- Sir J. Shuckburgh.
- Permt. U.S. of S.
- Parly. U.S. of S.
- Secretary of State.

DRAFT.

FURTHER ACTION.

That plan held the 13
field for some weeks,
but was then abandoned
for one in which the
Nigerian battalion was
allocated for possible
service in Kenya. As
soon, however, as ^{the} ~~was~~
question of sending
reinforcements to Somaliland
to meet an Italian threat
~~was~~ had to be considered,
it was again ^{recommended} ~~proposed~~
that a Nigerian battalion
(and a battery) should
be sent to Somaliland if
necessary, ~~and the Government~~

C. O.

C. O.
23 DEC
123

14
1/5

Mr. Lee. 16. 12. 35.

38066/35. Kenya. Secret.

Mr. Donnie 16. 12. at once as draft
Mr.

For concurrence of Treasury.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Perm. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Re draft

Re Lee 21/12

N. Donnie 23/12 at once

No. 343. Secret.

Coded sheet
5:30 PM
23/12/35
G.D.

[Handwritten mark]

[The ref. is to No. 50 on file 46011/23 i.e. the telegram saying that in all probability West African troops would not be required.]

* My telegram No. 328.

DRAFT.

Telegram. (Code).

Please forward by mail reaching this country before 31st January statement (giving details) of any abnormal expenditure incurred by reason of measures taken to prepare battalions and battery for service overseas either in Kenya or Somaliland. Such expenditure will be ^{referred to} ~~regarded as~~ ^{to Nigeria} ~~charge against Somaliland funds.~~

GOVERNOR.

LAGOS.

(129)
copy to Lagos Speed (14)

FURTHER ACTION.

See

127
15
Tel. No. HOLBORN 3434.

Any communications on the subject of this letter should be addressed to

THE SECRETARY,
AIR MINISTRY,
ADAMSTAL HOUSE,
KINGSWAY,
LONDON, W.C. 2.



AIR MINISTRY,
LONDON, W.C. 2.

and the following number quoted:—

S. 35493/II/S.6.

SECRET.

20 December, 1935.

Sir,

124
I am commanded by the Air Council to refer to Mr. Lee's demi-official letter of the 29th November, 1935, forwarding a copy of telegram No. 272 dated 25th November from the Governor of Kenya to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in regard to the command of the detachment of the Royal Air Force now located in Kenya as a temporary measure.

2. In reply, I am to state that the Council agree that the Commander of the Northern Brigade should, for the period of the present emergency, be in command of the Royal Air Force detachment for frontier operations, the Officer Commanding the Royal Air Force detachment to have direct access to the Governor and authority to correspond direct with the Air Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force, Middle East on all matters affecting his command. The Council note from Sir Joseph Byrne's telegram his suggestion that the normal channel of communication regarding matters of administration should be the Brigade Commander. They presume, however, that this procedure would apply only to matters of purely local administration which could be more conveniently arranged in this way, and that other administrative matters would continue to be dealt with direct with Headquarters Royal Air Force, Middle East as at present.

3. Mr. Secretary Thomas will recollect that one of the reasons for pressing for the location of the detachment in Kenya was to form the nucleus of any air striking forces that might have to be sent to Kenya to deal with an air threat from Italian Somaliland. Should this situation arise the Council

130
Copy to Col. Lee (20) (130)
The Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
S. W. 1.

reserve the right to place the existing detachment, as well as the additional air forces despatched to Kenya, under the command of the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Royal Air Force in the North East African area in order that the air operations in the whole of that area may be properly co-ordinated. In this event aircraft would continue to be provided to meet the requirements of the Brigade Commander, if they could be spared from the main operations. For the present, however, the Council are prepared to agree to the procedure outlined above in paragraph 2.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. Marshall

126. 16



Telephone No.: WHITEHALL 1234.

In any reply
please quote Regd. No.



TREASURY CHAMBERS,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

SECRET.

20th December, 1935.

My dear Lee,

125

Many thanks for your letter of the 18th December about the incidence of abnormal expenditure incurred in Nigeria in preparing troops for service in East Africa. I agree that the most convenient procedure would be to regard such expenditure as a charge against Somaliland funds but I should not be prepared to justify the procedure on grounds of convenience alone and I had regarded this procedure as having also substantial justification in fact. It is quite true that it was at one time contemplated that a Nigerian battalion should be sent to Kenya but the more recent tendency has been to regard the Nigerian troops as available for Somaliland and I think this tendency gives us reasonable justification for charging the whole extra cost against Somaliland.

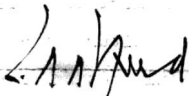
As regards your draft telegram I suggest that
instead

Amex (129)

F.G. Lee, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

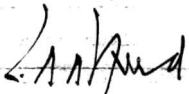
instead of saying in the last paragraph that the expenditure will be regarded as a charge against Somaliland funds, it would be sufficient to tell the Governor that the expenditure will be regarded as repayable to Nigeria.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'L. K. ...', written over a horizontal line.

instead of saying in the last paragraph that the expenditure will be regarded as a charge against Somaliland funds, it would be sufficient to tell the Governor that the expenditure will be regarded as repayable to Nigeria.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. K. ...', is written over a horizontal dashed line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

C.O.

Mr. Lee. 16.12.35.

Mr. *Donnie* 16.12.35

Mr.

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

38066/35. Kenya. Secret.

Semi-official for Mr. Lee's signature.

Downing Street.

December, 1935.



17-22

DRAFT.

E.B.B. SPEED, ESQ., M.C.,

TREASURY.

Don't tel. h.w.

My dear Speed,

You^{will} remember that I talked

to you on the telephone about the question of the incidence of any abnormal expenditure which may have been incurred in Nigeria in preparing troops for service in Kenya or Somaliland in the event of an emergency in those Dependencies. You agreed, I think, with the view that the most convenient procedure would be to regard such expenditure as a charge against Somaliland funds, even though it was contemplated at one time that a Nigerian battalion would be sent not to Somaliland but to Kenya.

FURTHER ACTION.

C. O.

S.O. for Mr. Lee's signature.

Mr. Lee. 26/11

Major Cole 27.11

Mr. Fresh 27

Sir C. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson

X Sir C. Bottomley. 27

Sir J. Shuckburgh

+ Perm. U.S. of S. 27

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

DRAFT.WING COMMANDER G.C. PIRIE, M.C.,
D.F.C.,

121.

letter to me of the 20th November concerning the question of the command of the R.A.F. flight in Kenya, I enclose a copy of a further telegram which we have now received from Sir Joseph Byrne on this subject.

You will see that Air Commodore Bromet and he have now agreed on an arrangement (as summarized in the telegram) in regard to the question of command of the K.A.R. and the R.A.F. detachment. This agreement is, however, subject to confirmation by the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Middle East.

Presumably

I have accordingly prepared a draft telegram to Nigeria on the above basis. I enclose a copy of this draft and should be obliged if you would say whether you concur in its terms. It seems definitely desirable to let Nigeria know at once that any abnormal expenditure which may have been incurred on these preliminary preparations is to be refunded.

Yours sincerely,

FURTHER ACTION.

From CW 25/11/55

122

to be discussed in detail

copy to Col. Leese (200.) (170)

127

DOWNING STREET.

November, 1935.

SECRET.

Presumably Air Commodore Bromet will
have addressed Sir Robert Brooke-Popham
direct on the subject; but perhaps, in
order to save time, it would be
possible for ^{the Air Ministry} ~~you yourself~~ to ascertain,
from him whether he approves the
arrangement now suggested, and also to
let us know whether it is satisfactory
from an Air Ministry point of view. For
our part we are quite prepared to give
it our blessing.

Yours sincerely,

Cypher telegram from the Governor of Kenya to the Secretary
of State for the Colonies

Dated 26th November, 1935. Received at 9.12 am. 26th Nov. 1935.

No. 276 Secret. My 272 for words "Commodore Bromet under
myself" please substitute the following "Commander Northern
Brigade" .

FORM FOR REGISTRATION

Cypher telegram from the Governor of Kenya to the Secretary of
for the Colonies.

Dated 25th November, 1935. Received 3.57.p.m. 25th November.

No. 272. Secret.

Your No. 377. Have discussed with Air Commodore

Bromet and following arrangement was agreed subject to confirmation
by Air Officer Commanding in Chief Middle East.

Commander Northern Brigade
~~Commodore Bromet~~ *under myself* as Commander-in-Chief

copy (30) to Sec. Secy (see)
should be in command King's African Rifles and Royal Air Force
detachment for frontier operations and intelligence purposes. No
channel of communication regarding matters of administration
concerning Royal Air Force work in this Colony to be through
Brigade Commander. Officer Commanding Royal Air Force to have
direct access to myself and authority to correspond direct with
Air Officer Commanding in Chief on subjects affecting units as
part of his command.

An early decision is desirable.

Secret

AIR MINISTRY. 1-1
ADASTRAL HOUSE,
KINGSWAY, W.C.2

20th November, 1935.

My dear Sir,

I know you are anxious to have our considered opinion on the question of the status of the Royal Air Force flight in Kenya, and I am therefore writing to you demi-officially to let you know what our views here are on the matter. As already explained we do not wish to commit ourselves in advance of Sir Robert Brooke-Popham's recommendations, which however we are unlikely to receive even by telegraph before the beginning of December. I think however we may say that our own provisional view can be summarised as follows.

We are of the opinion that it would be undesirable to place the Royal Air Force detachment unreservedly at the disposal and under the command of the local Brigade Commander for the following reasons :-

This detachment is a part of Sir Robert Brooke-Popham's Command, which is faced with a very heavy scale of air attack, and therefore in the event of the general air situation requiring it, ^{Sir Robert} he might well have to withdraw the Kenya detachment or increase it or employ it directly in connection with his air campaign should hostilities break out between Italy and the League. We would, however, propose to issue instructions to Gibbs, that subject to his responsibilities (as laid down by the Air Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force, Middle East) in connection with the general air situation he should make every effort to meet the reasonable requirements of the local Brigade Commander for co-operation. During such operations, Gibbs would be instructed to meet Campbell's requirements to the best of his ability, whilst having the right to refer any matters wherein he is in disagreement with him in regard to the employment of his forces to the Air Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force Middle East. Gibbs' position, therefore, would be that of a commander of a Royal Air Force detachment responsible directly to the Air Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force Middle East, but instructed to do his

F. J. Lee, Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Whitehall,
S. W. 1.

/utmost

utmost - subject to his responsibilities in connection with the general air situation - to comply with the requirements of the local Brigade Commander for co-operation provided he agrees that the aircraft are not being unsuitably employed and subject to the overriding authority of the Air Officer Commanding Royal Air Force Middle East in the event of any disagreement.

The situation in Kenya is not quite the same as in Somaliland. Military aircraft have never before been employed on the frontier of Kenya and it is for this reason, amongst others, that we have sent to command the Royal Air Force detachment a most experienced Squadron Leader.

But as I said at the beginning of my letter the above is merely our own provisional view and we don't want to commit ourselves over the head of Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, who as you know, has only recently assumed command of the Royal Air Force in the Middle East and has spent all his time so far visiting the various Air Commands and bases and has not yet reached Nairobi. However, I hope this letter may be of some help to you and suffice until we are able to write to you officially.

Sincerely yours

E. C. Pitt

120.22

1526

18.11.35

Dear Brewster:

Here is a copy of a note I have sent to Speed about the record of the 'incidence' meeting last week.

Yours sincerely

A. G. Bentley

23

18th November, 1935.

Dear Speed,

One comment on the record of last Wednesday's "incidence" meeting, received this morning.

Somaliland, ((c) of page 2). The central dump of respirators and other anti-gas stores which we have sent out for the use of the Egyptian Army, the Sudan D.F., Kenya and Somaliland local forces, in emergency is located in Egypt, not in Aden. We have told the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office that the cost of the respirators, etc., is £X, including the cost of transport to Egypt; that they will be held in reserve in Egypt, and that if they have to be issued in emergency the War Office will look to the Governments concerned for repayment of the value of the stores plus costs of conveyance from Egypt.

We are not therefore proposing to make any charge for these stores unless they have to be issued, and perhaps the second sentence of (c) on page 2 of the record had better be omitted in the circumstances.

I have just received a copy of Freeston's note to you on the same point, and am sending him a copy of this.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) A. J. NEWLING.

E. B. B. Speed, Esq., M.C.,
Treasury,
S. W. 1.

C. O.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. Parkinson.

Sir G. Tomlinson.

Sir C. Bottomley.

Sir J. Shuckburgh

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

DRAFT. Tel (recyphn)

Gov. Nauru

57)

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Kangra

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D.
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Recyphred report
9:30 / 18/11/35

R22332

Secret. My tel 12 August

211 Secret. Please send
by earliest possible air mail
after 1st Jan 1936 (a)
statement of cost of emergency
expenditure on defence during
current year, under heads
of K.A.R., police, R.A.F.
miscellaneous (b) estimate
of similar expenditure
during first quarter of
1936.

FURTHER ACTION.

Reine. for dep.
E. Higgins

I have since spoken to
Mr. Lee. This shd.
be referred to him
about Dec. 13th

4/12

117 25

DORNING STREET.

15th November 1935

Dear Speed,

Blaxter and I accepted as accurate your record of the meeting at the Treasury on November 13th about the incidence of cost of emergency expenditure. Paragraph 4, however, reads "it was agreed that the War Office would advise the Colonial Office of the approximate costs of transport and storage of the respirators which are being held at Aden against emergency requirement in Somaliland and Kenya. These costs would also be included in the estimates."

I agreed to this at the meeting because I was told that in certain correspondence which I had not seen the Colonial Office had accepted the charge. Subsequent search however has failed to reveal any such correspondence; the only document of relevance that I can trace is a War Office letter of October 2nd (57/Egypt/2969 F.L.) of which the last sentence reads "they

on 6/21/37
Lyn

S. B. B. SPEED, ESQ. A.C.,

"they wish to make it clear that should the emergency arise which makes it imperative that the stores be issued to the King's African Rifles and the Somaliland Camel Corps they will look to the Governments of Kenya and Somaliland for repayment of the stores supplied together with any expenditure incurred in connection with the conveyance of the stores from the issuing depot in Egypt." It seems a fair inference from this that the War Office do not in any circumstances propose to debit the colonial administrations with the cost of transport between the United Kingdom and Egypt.

I am sending a copy of this note to Newling at the War Office.

Yours sincerely,





In any reply
please quote Regd. No.



1167
TREASURY CHAMBERS,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1
(Tel.: WHITEHALL 1234)

16th November, 1935.

Dear Freeston,

I enclose a note of the meeting which you attended at the Treasury on the 13th November regarding the incidence of cost of emergency expenditure in Colonies and at Aden. If you wish any amendments to be made, please let me know by mid-day on Tuesday, the 19th November.

Yours sincerely,

L.B. Freeston, Esq., O.B.E.,
Colonial Office.

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MEETING HELD AT TREASURY ON 13th NOVEMBER.

Present:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Mr. E.E. Bridges) | Treasury |
| Mr. E.B.B. Speed) | |
| Mr. C.N. Knight | Air Ministry |
| Mr. A.J. Dawe) | |
| Mr. L.B. Freeston) | Colonial Office |
| Mr. K.W. Blaxter) | |
| Mr. V.H. Boyse) | |
| Mr. H.A.F. Rumbold | India Office |
| Mr. A.J. Newling | War Office |

1. The meeting was called to discuss the incidence of cost of the emergency expenditure in certain Colonies and in the Settlement of Ade...

2. It was stated that the Treasury, while unable to accept the argument which had been advanced in respect of Malta and Aden that the cost of equipping civilians with gas masks and of other civil emergency measures was an Imperial Defence liability, were prepared, as part of the general emergency expenditure arising out of the Italo-Abyssinian dispute, to authorise some contribution in respect of these costs, having regard to the financial position of the territories concerned.

3. Any charge ultimately accepted against Imperial Votes would be borne on the Colonial and Middle Eastern Vote, and provision for the charge would form part of a Supplementary Estimate to be presented in February, 1936.

4. It was agreed that:-

(a) Malta The Colonial Office should obtain an estimate of emergency expenditure to be incurred by the Civil Government up to the 31st March, 1936, in respect

29
respect of gas masks, internment arrangements, the gas school, general service respirators drawn from War Office stocks, etc. and to submit this estimate to the Treasury, with an estimate of Malta's financial position at the end of her current financial year and of her estimates of revenue and expenditure for the coming financial year. The Colonial Office representative undertook to submit to higher authority the Treasury proposal to authorise contribution as above without determination of the question of principle as to where the liability should lie.

(b) Kenya. Similar action should be taken as regards Kenya and any extra expenditure incurred on troops in East Africa on behalf of Kenya should be included in the estimate. It was found that Kenya's financial position demanded some relief, the Treasury suggested that the first step would be to authorise the Air Ministry to waive the gross cost of the Royal Air Force reinforcements. Such waiver would not involve a supplementary on the Colonial and Middle Eastern Vote.

(c) Somaliland. The Colonial Office should furnish an estimate of extra cost which should include cost incurred on behalf of Somaliland in Tanganyika in respect of reinforcements. ~~The War Office would advise the Colonial Office of the approximate costs of transport and storage of the respirators which are being held at Aden against emergency requirements in Somaliland and Kenya. These costs would also be included in the estimate.~~

(d) India. As the India Office representative adhered to the view that the extra cost is an Imperial Defence Liability and was also unable to accept a Treasury suggestion

Deleted, at
Mr. Spence's request
R.D. 20/11

30

suggestion that a compromise might be reached under which India and the United Kingdom should bear half the cost each, without determination of the question of principle, the Treasury should write officially to the India Office setting out their views. The India Office representative was not able to undertake that the India Office would support those views in seeking the Government of India's agreement to the compromise suggested.

5. As regards the ownership of the civilian gas masks sent to Malta and Aden, it was urged on behalf of the Treasury that, if Imperial Votes pay for these gas masks, it will be reasonable to require the return of the masks to this country if they are not used and if the emergency dies away. As to this the Colonial Office Representative pointed out that it is their policy to keep Malta in a state of preparedness not only in times of emergency but at all times, in view of her geographical position, but he agreed that, if it were decided that civilian requirements in this country were of greater urgency than civilian requirements in Malta, there would be a case for returning the gas masks. This matter was left over for discussion at a later date.

Treasury Chambers,

16th November, 1935.

C. O.

Mr. ~~Lee~~ 14/11
Mr. ~~Flora~~ 14
Major Cole has seen.
Sir C. Parkinson.
Sir G. Tomlinson.
Sir C. Bottomley.
Sir J. Shuckburgh
Permt. U.S. of S.
Parly. U.S. of S.
Secretary of State.

Amad 122

G. D.
R 15
D 15

38/11/35
7/14/11/35

No. 322

at once
2.14.11



17

Your telegram no 262

His Ministers are
anxious that ^(final) decision

should be deferred until
after visit to Nairobi on

20th November 7 BROMET

Senior his staff officer is

A. O. C. Middle East who

will discuss matter with

you.

Yours,

DRAFT.

Tel. ^{Mr} ~~Crest~~

General

Nairobi

FURTHER ACTION.

copy to W. G. Com.
L.F.
copy com. W. O.
L.F.

1 MAY 35

112 32
DOWNING STREET.

8th November, 1935.

SECRET.

My dear Pirie,

I enclose a copy of the telegram from the Governor of Kenya which I mentioned to you on the telephone this evening. I understand that it will be necessary for you to consult the Air Officer Commanding, Middle East, on this question, but we are anxious that a decision should be communicated to Sir Joseph Byrne with the least possible delay.

I think you know that our own view is that in Kenya, as in Somaliland, the R.A.F. Detachment should be under the command of the O.C. troops, as the Governor proposes.

Yours sincerely,

T.G.L.

WING COMMANDER. G.C. PIRIE, M.C.,
D.F.C.

28066

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Cypher

Telegram from the Governor of Kenya to the Secretary of State
for the Colonies

Dated 8th November, 1935. Received at 1.57 pm. 8th Nov. 1935.

73
No. 262 Year No 218 It is important that Brigade Commander's
position should be made clear now. Grateful you confirm that
Royal Air Force detachment is under his command.