

1927

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CO 533/370

Raid by Kanyazmatch Lake

Previous

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26Room 29 8000  
KCP

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Subsequent

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Hotel 3000

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Mr. Barclay

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Mr. Barclay

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Foreign Office 10 June 1941

Two copies further despatches from Lt. M. Himske at Addis Ababa. Still it would appear unwise to allow matter to drop without further communication to Abyssinian Govt and state terms in which they propose to instruct H. Bentinck.

Mr. Mackay

I hardly feel that the somewhat anaemic note now proposed by the F.O. com, at this distance of time, do much more good than letting the matter lapse. However, the decision to pass the matter over from the F.O., and if they are satisfied with the terms of the protest and consider it sufficient to save our dignity, I do not think we need interfere.

Reply concerning in the proposed message to the Abyssinian Government  
2nd copies of No. 1 enclosed, a reply to Mr. Giffitt.

Chas. Cliffe

There was never any real hope of our obtaining satisfaction from the Abyssinian Govt. in this matter, and the removal of Mr. Hodson from

X 40370  
Abynia has discovered  
what part of the area was.

As proposed.

Emachis

26/7

Nothing else for

reference

15.6.27

mail

2 To 40 (no 1 and) 21 JUN 1927

3 To En leaf (copy) 21 JUN 1927 4/1

4 Foreign Office 20 June 1927

Two copy sent to H.M. Minder at Addis Ababa.

Copy of leaf of the 3

written

C. D.
R 4 JUL
D

1/7

abuse

5 To En leaf (copy) 6 JUL 1927

6 Foreign Office 24 Aug. 1927

Two copy sent from H.M. Minder at Addis Ababa enclosing a copy of his despatch addressed to Ras Tafari.

Putby

3/2/27

26 x 1/2

64  
/

In any further communications on this subject, please quote  
No. 2250/11411  
and address—not to any person by name, but to—  
The Under-Secretary of State, Foreign Office, London, S.W.1

RECEIVED  
25 AUG 1927  
COL. OFFICE

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,  
24th August, 1927.

Reference to previous correspondence:  
Colonial Office letter No. 2  
No. 10240/24 of 21st June, 1927  
Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
<p>Hon. Minister at Addis Ababa No. 224 of 25th July</p>	<p>Kanyazmach hadu hadu</p>

Similar letter sent to

14 (1924) 526 (2)  
(1924) 527

C.O. 533  
370  
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

COPY

(J 2250/114/1)

No. 227.

5

His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Date July 25th.

---

Reference to previous correspondence:

F.O. despatch No. 195 of June 25th 1927.

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ENCLOSURES.

SUBJECT

Note to Ras Tafari No.46  
of July 25th 1927.

Kanyazmach Laku's raid.

Enclosure in Addis Ababa despatch No. 222 of 25.7.27.

No: 46.

Addis Ababa.

20th July 1927.

To His Imperial Highness Tafari Makonnen,  
Heir apparent to the Throne of Ethiopia.  
From Mr Charles Bentinck,

His Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary.

Your Imperial Highness:-

With reference to the letter of 10th July 1926 to Sable Sadaieu  
to Mr Maclean of the 17th of July, 1926, I am instructed by His  
Majesty's Government to inform Your Imperial Highness that they  
were at first inclined to hope that an enquiry at Waji which  
you and I had agreed last February might take place between  
the ditwoda Getachio and the new Consul when he reaches Waji  
into the matter of Kinyasmach Laku would have led to its eluci-  
dation. They now feel however that a local investigation  
would be useless. Mr Hodson, who alone can speak from personal  
experience of the circumstances of the raid, has left  
Abyssinia; a considerable time has elapsed since the events  
to be enquired into took place; it would be extremely expen-  
sive, if not actually impossible, to bring Durhama witnesses  
to Waji; and finally Abyssinian witnesses would scarcely dare  
to give evidence against their local superiors. On the  
other hand His Majesty's Government are satisfied that the  
statement made by Mr Hodson before he left for the west coast  
proves beyond doubt the absolute untruthfulness of Kinyas-  
mach Laku's story and the absurdity of his allegations. If the  
Abyssinian Government still hesitate to take disciplinary  
measures against the Kinyasmach, they have only to refer to  
Sable Sadaieu who can confirm the entire truth of Mr Hodson's  
statement.

statement. In any case His Majesty's Government have no intention of returning the money deposited with the Kenya authorities until the Langamach goes to Kenya and clears himself satisfactorily of the charges preferred against him.

I avail myself of this opportunity to tender to Your Imperial Highness the expression of my high consideration.

His Majesty's Minister.

RECEIVED  
30 JUN 1927  
OFFICE

47

In any further communication on this subject, please quote  
No. 71402/114/1  
and address  
The Under-Secretary of State, Foreign Office, London, W. J. OFFICE

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,  
29th June 1927

Reference to previous correspondence:

*Colonial Office letter*  
*No. 10240/24 of 21st June, 1927 No. 2.*  
Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
<i>To</i> <i>Dir. Minutes</i> <i>at Addis Ababa</i> <i>No. 195 of 28th June</i>	<i>Raid carried out by</i> <i>Kangazmatch haku in</i> <i>November, 1923</i>

Similar letter sent to

*copy sent to the Comptroller (2) 28 JUL 1927*



No. 195

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.

(S 1702/114/1)

25th June, 1927.

Sir,

I understand from your despatch No. 133 of the 3rd May last regarding the raid perpetrated by Kanyamach Laku into the Turkhana country in November 1925, that you are satisfied that it would be useless to adopt the attitude suggested by Mr. Hodson that the raid had been proved to your satisfaction and consequently that nothing remained to be said on the Abyssinian side.

2. If, on the other hand, Mr. Hodson is right in considering that it would be useless to hold a local enquiry I agree with you that it would be most unfortunate merely to drop the matter. In these circumstances and on the assumption that you share Mr. Hodson's view as to the futility of a local enquiry I request that you will make representations to the Abyssinian Government in the following sense.

3. You should inform them that though His Majesty's Government were at first inclined to hope that an enquiry at Maji would elucidate the whole matter, they now feel that a local investigation would be quite useless; Mr. Hodson, who alone can speak from personal experience of the circumstances of the raid, has left the country; a considerable period of time has elapsed since the events to be enquired into took place; it would be extremely expensive, if not actually impossible, to bring Turkhana witnesses to Maji; and finally Abyssinian witnesses could not be relied on as they would naturally be reluctant to

give.....

Charles E. Bentinck, Secy., C.M.S.,

etc.,

etc.,

etc.,

Addis Ababa.

give evidence against their own local superiors. On the other hand His Majesty's Government are satisfied that the statement made by Mr. Hodson, a copy of which was enclosed in my despatch No. 513 of September 8th last, proves beyond doubt the absolute untrustworthiness of Kanyasmach Laku's story and the absurdity of his allegations. If the Abyssinian Government still hesitate to take disciplinary measures against him, they have only to refer to Hagadras Desta who can confirm the entire truth of Mr. Hodson's statement. In any case His Majesty's Government have no intention of returning the money deposited with the Kenya authorities until the Kanyasmach goes there and clears himself satisfactorily of the charges preferred against him.

4. The Colonial Office concur in this course of action.

I am, with great truth and regard,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(For the Secretary of State)

(Sd.) JOHN MURRAY.

X/0370 97  
KENYA 10

Mr. Cliffe 15-VI

Mr. Mackenzie 15/6  
B

Mr.  
Mr. E. J. Harding.

Mr. J. Strachey.

Sir J. Shuckburgh.

Sir G. Grindle.

Sir C. Davis.

Sir S. Wilson.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore.

Lord Lount.

Mr. Amery.

Amery  
no. 3

C.D.  
R. 13 JUN  
D. 20

21 June 1927.

~~1727 JUN 12~~

copy 21 JUN 1927  
copy 23 JUN 1927

Sir,  
I am able to acknowledge  
the receipt of your  
letter No: J 1444/114/1 of  
the 7th of June, and  
to repeat you to  
inform Secretary Sir  
Austin Chamberlain  
that Mr Amery concurs  
in the terms of the

DRAFT.

The O.S. of S.  
Foreign Office

Copy this, No. 1 & 2 copies, to  
O/S Conf/CP.

representations which  
it is proposed to make  
to the Abyssinian Govt.  
regarding the raid carried  
out by Konyakmetch  
Laku in November, 1923.

(Signed) W. C. BOTTOMLEY.

In any further communication  
on this subject, please quote

J 1444/114/1

and address—

not to be given by name.

but to—

The Under Secretary of State,  
Foreign Office,  
London, S.W.1.

RECEIVED  
11 JUN 1927  
COLONIAL OFFICE

Foreign Office

S.W.1.

10th June, 1927.

Sir,

With reference to the letter from this department  
of the 17th November last regarding the raid carried  
out by Kenyazmach Laku in November 1925, I am directed  
by Secretary Sir Austen Chamberlain to request you to  
lay before Mr. Secretary Amery the accompanying copies  
of two further despatches on this subject from His  
Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa.

2. It would appear impolitic to allow the subject to  
drop without further communication to the Abyssinian  
Government as they might interpret this inaction as proof  
that His Majesty's representatives had so bad a case as  
not to permit of its further prosecution. Subject to  
any observations Mr. Amery may desire to make, Sir Austen  
Chamberlain would therefore propose to instruct Mr.  
Bentinck, if in the light of Mr. Hodson's despatch he is  
satisfied that it is useless to continue to press for the  
enquiry on the spot, to inform the Abyssinian Government  
that, though His Majesty's Government were at first inclined  
to hope that an enquiry at Maji would elucidate the whole  
matter, they now feel that a local investigation would  
be quite useless: Mr. Hodson who alone can speak from  
personal experience of the circumstances of the raid has  
left the country; a considerable period of time has elapsed

since

The Under Secretary of State  
Colonial Office.

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21 JUN 1927 4

copy to be kept

Recd 21 JUN 1927

since the events to be enquired into took place; it would be extremely expensive, if not actually impossible, to bring Turkana witnesses to Maji; and finally Abyssinian witnesses could not be relied on as they would naturally be reluctant to give evidence against their own local superiors. On the other hand His Majesty's Government are satisfied that the statement by Mr. Hodson, forwarded to Addis Ababa under cover of Foreign Office despatch No. 313 of the 3th September last, of which a copy was sent to you on the 10th of that month, proves beyond doubt the absolute untrustworthiness of Kanyasmach Laku's story and the absurdity of his allegations. If the Abyssinian Government still hesitate to take disciplinary measures against him, they have only to refer to Haradras Desta who can confirm the entire truth of Mr. Hodson's statement. In any case His Majesty's Government have no intention of returning the money deposited with the Kenya authorities, which formed the subject of your letter of the 30th October, 1925, until the Kanyasmach goes there and clears himself satisfactorily of the charges preferred against him.

L.B.  
bmm  
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Yo  
6519  
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I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*Handwritten signature*

C.O. 533  
370  
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No 37

Copy to Mr. Hodson  
at Khartoum.

Addis Ababa.

February 10th. 1927.

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Hasleau's despatch No. 208  
of October 23rd. last and to your telegram No. 1 of <sup>107</sup> ~~1~~  
<sup>November 14th 1926</sup>  
January 5th. 1927 I have the honour to transmit herewith,  
copies of a despatch which I have addressed to His Majesty's  
Consul at Maji, c/o The Civil Secretary's Office at  
Khartoum, instructing him to supply his successor with  
full particulars regarding the raid into the Turkhana  
country by Hanyamash Lahu in November 1925. I do not  
think that we should allow this matter to drop and my  
present proposal is the only means I can see of reaching  
a settlement. Ras Taffari has agreed to issue the necessary  
instructions to the Bitwoded Getatchu to investigate the  
matter on the spot in conjunction with Mr. Hodson's  
successor.

I am forwarding a copy of this despatch to Mr.  
Hodson at Khartoum.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

your most obedient humble,

The Rt. Hon.

Sir Austen Chamberlain, K.G., etc. etc. etc.

Servant,

(Signed) G. H. DUNNING

*Salome in A.A. days no 37 of January 1927*  
*Library file 146*

Addis Ababa,  
January 31st, 1927

Sir,

Before you leave Khartoum to take up your new appointment I should be grateful if you would give your attention to the old case of the raid perpetrated by Kanyasmach Laku into the Turkhana country in November 1923.

This question, as you know, has not yet been settled and I do not wish it to be dropped. I had hoped that you might have been able to investigate the matter on the spot, with some officer appointed by Ras Tafari for the purpose. To this His Highness had agreed, but I realize that this will be impossible during your final hasty visit to Maji. The settlement of the question will now have to be left to your successor. I therefore request that you will leave with the Civil Secretary at Khartoum a full and complete report of the whole case for the benefit of your successor. You should also state what witnesses can be called to give evidence and add everything which you think will be useful to enable your successor to prove the case.

I for my part will request Ras Tafari to authorize the new governor of Kaffa and Maji, Mitwoded Getatchew, to investigate the matter on behalf of His Highness. The Mitwoded has just started for his province and is expected to reach Maji in about three months time. He is, I think, a big enough man to be able to form an independent opinion and he professes to be most anxious for the friendliest relations with your successor.

The only alternative to the course which I am suggesting will be to drop the whole matter, which would be deplorable. You must remember, in drawing up your report, that your successor will be totally ignorant of the case and will



15

will therefore be dependant for his information on your report  
and on those he may find in the archives at Maji.

I am,

Sir,

your obedient servant,

(SIGNED) ... ..

Arnold Hodson Esq. C.M.G.

a/o The Civil Secretary's Office,

Khartoum.

May 3rd, 1927.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 37 of January 31st last enclosing a copy of a despatch to Mr. Hodson at Khartoum dated January 31st last, respecting the raid perpetrated by Kanyazmach Laku into the Turkhana country in November 1926, I have the honour to transmit copy of a reply from Mr. Hodson dated March 25th.

2. Mr. Hodson suggests that I should adopt the attitude that the raid has been proved to my satisfaction. This, I fear, would be useless so far as Ras Taffari is concerned, since the Kanyazmach has flatly denied in all its details the charge brought against him by Mr. Hodson. Mr. Hodson considers that to hold an enquiry at Maji by his successor and the new Abyssinian Governor, to which Ras Taffari had agreed, would be useless. In that case, I much regret that my only course would seem to be to drop the matter. This I consider most unfortunate in view of the gravity of the accusation which Mr. Hodson brought against the Kanyazmach. This is, I fear, merely another example of the difficulties with which His Majesty's Minister has to contend in this country, where almost nothing can be accomplished and where justice can practically never be obtained, nor punishment inflicted when an Abyssinian is the guilty party.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient,  
humble servant,

The Rt. Hon.

Sir Austen Chamberlain, K. G.,

(Signed) C. N. BENTINCK

Enclosure in Addis Ababa despatch No 133 of May 3rd 1927.

Mile.

25th March 1927

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, unnumbered, dated January 31st in connection with Kanyasmach Laku.

I would respectfully suggest you adopt the attitude that the raid has been proved to your satisfaction, which is the method adopted in ninety-nine out of a hundred border raids.

To hold an enquiry at Maji would be useless for two reasons :-

- 1st No Abyssinian would ever bear witness in this matter. It would be as much as his life was worth.
- 2nd Turkhana witnesses could never be brought to Maji to give evidence.

It must be remembered this raid took place close to Lake Rudolph which is over a fortnight's journey from Maji.

Hagadras Desta who I believe is now in Addis Ababa knows all the particulars of this raid but if asked he would probably say he knew nothing about it at all.

I think you will agree that to hold an enquiry which has no prospect of ending in our favour would only be to cause unnecessary trouble and weaken our position in the eyes of the Abyssinians.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(sgd.) Arnold Hodson,

His Majesty's Consul for South West

Abyssinia.

Charles Bentinck Esq., C.M.G.

His Majesty's Minister,

Addis Ababa.