IN OFFICE. CONF .11th December 1925 288 DEMARCATION OF FRONTIERS OF ABYSSINIA. Fwd copy of despatch from Addis Ababa reporting that Ras Taffari has again mentioned this subject. Fwd also record of conversation between Ras Taffari and Mr Ramsay MacDonald last year. Request S.of S's obsone on reply proposed, but consider it amprobable that Abyssinian Govt will give guaranter MINUTES 1 Bottouty hw Green he Struckey colla Garatas Em 7/2/25 bring den Subsequent Paper to asons - by 1367/26 30

then write Kenya.

18.12.75.

reply to Azinda and Simulation confl LFF (111 Brothenley agree)

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CAP 14/4/26 aprice

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In September 1824 as a result of an interview which has Taffari had with Mr. Ransay Mandonald the Pareign Office proposed that the delimitation of the Sudan-Abyssinia and the Kenya-Abyssinia boundaries should be taken up,

correspondence with the Covernments of Kenya and Eganda followed; and, as a result of this and of further correspondence with Foreign Office, the view arrived at was:-

A. SUDAN-ABYSSINIA. In spite of the fact that the Governments of Kenya and Uganda were in favour of the proposal, the Poreign Office, in deference to the risku of Pis Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa.
Sonsidered that it was unlikely to lead to tangible results and that it should be dropped.

B. KENYA ABYSSINIA. In view of the lack of agreement in principle between the British and Abyssinian Covernments as to where the boundary should be and the fact that the British are now in occupation of posts in what the Abyssinian Government regar as Abyssinian territory, the Kenya Government considered it undesirable, at any rate at present, to arrange for the delimitation of the boundary. The Foreign Office accordingly agreed that the matter should drop.

The Foreign Office now suggest that, as
Ras Taffari has recurred to the question and implies
that the next move in the matter rests with the
British Government, he should be informed that His
Majesty's Covernment are willing to co-operate in
the delimitation of the Kenya-Apyssinia and SudanAbyssinia boundaries and also the SomalilandAbyssinia boundaries provided (a) that the Abyssinian
Commissioner will be ready as soon as the British
Commissioner wrives and (b) that the Abyssinian

3.712/25.

Commissioner

commissioner has full nowers to settle the boundaries without reference to Addis Ababa.

NB. The Somalitani-Abyesinia boundary as not come into this correspondence. This boundary as fixed by the Tennell Rodd Treaty of 1897; but has men to the Tennell Rodd Treaty of 1897; but has men to the anxious for the lelimitation to be correct out. I recent Actes, a guild into Committand as and for the second for this second content at the need for this second content at the content at the second by

t first would be line which the Yorkinn of the second of the control of the contr

on this last reint doubt may well be felt;
but, as the role thing appears to be "eyewash" and
unlikely to lead to anything priortical, we can
remaily agree to what Poreigh Office propose and
explain the position to the three Governors, without
eves consulting Kenya as to their boundary. Moreover

attitude as to the sewalitand - alyning bounds

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FOREIGE OFFICE

S.W. 1

4th March, 1926.

Bir,

With reference to your letter No. 55782/25 of L.A. the 23rd December last, I am directed by Secretary Sir Austen Chamberlain to enquire whether any reply has yet been received from the Government of Kenya to the despatch addressed to them on the 23rd December last on the subject of the Abyssinia-Kenya boundary.

81r.

Your obedient Servent.

John Munay.

er Secretary of State,

Colonial Office.

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Lay harly true for will get but In will

be reminded if reply in

not received in a

8/3/Wat

P. 55782

CONFIDENTIAL

11th December, 1925,

FOREIGN OFFICE.

s.w.1. 291

Sir.

With reference to the letter from your pepartment of the 29th October regarding the demarcation of the rontiers of Abyssinia, I am directed by Secretary Sir Austen Chamberlain to request you to lay before Mr. Secretary Amery the accompanying copy of a despatch from his Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa reporting that Ras raffari has once more reverted verbally to this

E. A record of the conversation in which this subjects was discussed between Mas Taffari and Mr. Ramsay
M. clonald last year is enclosed herein for convenience of reference. It was as a result of this conversation that the question of selimiting the frontiers was taken up with the Sudan Jovernment and subsequently, through your department, with the Jovernments of Kenya and Uganda.

desire to make, Sir Austen C. amberlain proposes to inform Mr. Bentinck that, as mr. Ramsey Mc eDonald stated to make Taffari last year, Mis Lejesty's Jovernment are ready to proceed with the demarcation of the undelimitated parts of the Sudan-Abyssinia, Menya-Abyssinia, and British Someliland-Abyssinia frontiers. But before appointing a Soundary....

he under Secretary of State

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subject.

a Boundary Commissioner or incurring the expense of collecting technical staff and equipment, his rejeaty's Covernment must receive satisfactory guarantees that:-

- (a) The Abyssinian Commissioner and his staff will be ready and equipped to accompany his British colleague the moment the latter arrives: and
- (b) the Abyssinian Commissioner, owing to the lack of facilities for communication in Abyssinia. will have full powers to accept, on his own responsibility and without reference to Addia. Ababa. adjustments and modifications of the freaty frontiers necessitated by tribal or seographical considerations which can only be appreciated on the spot.
- 4. As it is improbable that the Abyssinian Government will be prepared at this stage to give these guarantees, although they are not merely reasonable but essential conditions in the light of past experience, it is unlikely that an early delimitation of the frontiers will become necessary. It is proposed to leave it to Mr. Bentinck's discretion whether to make a communication in writing in the above sense without waiting for a written note from the Abyssinian Government.

I am. etc.,

81r.

Your obedient Servent

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e Boundary Commissioner or incurring the expense of collecting technical staff and equipment, his dejecty's Government must receive satisfactory guarantees that:-

- (a) The Abyssimian Commissioner and his staff will be ready and equipped to accompany his British colleague the moment the latter arrives; and
- (b) the Abysshian Commissioner, owing to the lack of facilities for communication in Abyssinia. will have full powers to accept, on his own responsibility and without reference to Addia Ababa, adjustments and modifications of the Treaty frontiers necessitated by tribal or secgraphical considerations which can only be appreciated on the epot.
- 4. As it is improbable that the Abyssinian Government will be prepared at this stage to give these guarantees, although they are not merely reasonable but essential conditions in the light of past experience, it is unlikely that an early delimitation of the frontiers will become necessary. It is proposed to leave it to Mr. Bentinck's discretion whether to make a communication in writing in the above sense without waiting for a written note from the Abyssinian Government.

I am. etc.,

8Tr.

Your obedient Servent.

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Addis Ababa

Sir.

with reference to your despatch Lo. 231 of /october/14th last, I have the honour to rejort that about a couple of wonthe ago, then I was neving toa with tas Tarfari, His In colab mightess expressed the desire to arrange for the delimitation of the anglo-abyssinian frontiers. To had assession assell about this, but had never received any reply. In coloner ith, when discussing the question of the densers rais, dis superial injuness again raised the sandlan of montier deligitation. de had, he raid, manda hea the latter to mr. Rangay reDonald shen in London in reas, and the latter had provided to examine it. He ned since or when to see sele at the proof of, but he the selver received the answer for its ofer it, soverment. I college that that shen ... for awyme had been tent to aclisit to seathern frontier, the Auge brien regionertitive, a state samed sends rt, had arrived three months late. I waked to which trouties he ref area. He said to all. I occurred that the amoun was a very large one, and would take a long time and ne very expensive. I saked if I was to take this as an official request to my hovernment, cut his answer ass not very definite.

t. At a subsequent interview, he again coverted to the cacecot, and I subsequented that he embed a mid to the official note which I could forward to my lovermount.

the ...

The Rt. Hon.

Austen Chauberhain m.P.,

cte, ' te., tto.

the las said he could not do as, hevid asked His Majesty's Government to delimit the frontier, and having been told by Mr. MacDonald he would look into the matter, he was now awaiting a reply from His Majesty's Jovernment. expressed my willingness to forward an official reminder if he would send me something in writing which should have the authority of the Ethiopian Government. His Imperial Highness said he would consider this and the subject was dropped. A 1ew days and Belata Heroui, who is said to enjoy 3. the confidence of the Mas, and who is, with Dr. Martin. perhaps the only Abyssinian who knows anything about England and the English, told me how anxious he was for the best relations between England and abyssinia. Good relations with incland, he said, would be creatly to the advantage of his country. He went on to say that meny people were envious of the friendly personal relations which existed tetween the des and myself. They were trying to destroy this by making mischief between us. If ever any differences should arise, he would always gladly lend his good offices. and explain my point of view to the mas, or vice versa, The question of the annoyance caused to us by raids over ar frontiers was then raised and pelata Heroui asked why we did not arrange for frontier delimitations. He had been present when the kas had approached Mr. Macbonald on the subject. I referred to the Schubert incident, the great expense, and finally I told him that I did not see now any Abyssinian could be found with sufficient authority toundertake such an important task. When elata Heroui demurred to this, I instanced the comparatively simple

uestion ...

question of the raid over the Sometheand frontier at Hencest in 1923 which I had noped might have been settled locally between His maj sty's Consul at Harrar and Dejazmatch Imaru, the Dejaty Jovernor. Unfortunately Dejazmatch Imaru had not the authority to reach a settlement, and the matter had had to be if ried to Audis ababa. The only people in the sountry, I said, who would have the necessary authority to be able to uncertake the task of frontier delimitation would be the has minuself together with litaurari mapta liorgis (Minister of Jar)? Our conversation then came to an end. The i possibility of the old and decre it inister of Jar recommends, this journey to the leverish border amended, with the Heir to the Tarole, was opvious.

... i presson is tot das Tarbri sould like to the treative properly self free, and to be decaye while course of riction, as any recommendative versuity in fact that the treative models like. The fact the fact that the press of and recommendative was the fact that the present recime in acceptable to the tree present recime in acceptable to the country to agree to fronti recipitative secreptable to the and so, until deligible to the messon of the completes are seen to indicate the decimal track of the completes are seen to be a fine to the secretary of the completes are seen to be and the contract of the contract of

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6165/897/

Record of Conversation between the Prime Minister and His Imperial Highness Tafford Makonnen at 9:30 A.M. on July 10 1924, at No. 10. Downing Screet.

IN addition to the Prime Minister and His Imperial Highness Tuffari Makennen, there were also present Messrs. Russell, Murray, Home and Zaphiro, the three Russ, Hailu, Seyyum and Nado, who accompanied Ras Taffari, Bilata Heroui and Galva Silassie.

Ras Taffari opened the conversation by expressing the wish that the Abyssinian Government should obtain an outlet on the sea, and he hoped that the Prime Minister would be able to give him a definite and favourable reply.

The Prime Minister explained that he had not had an opportunity of considering

this proposal before.

Ras Taffari did not press the proposal, and passed on to say that the Abyasmian Government had need of arms. They had constant trouble with Mahometans and sugans in the country, and in the old days they used to buy rifles to protect themselves. It was now difficult for them to import arms, and he asked how, in these circumstances, they could protect their country. They had need of rifles, and, according to the treaty, they could protect their country. they had a right to obtain there.

The Prime Minister said that, so far as the British Government itself was oncerned, it had been decided that it should in no circumstances supply arms to toreign Governments. As regards the particular request of the Abyssinian Government to be allowed to purchase arms, a decision had recently been come to by His Majesty's Government to consult their allies-namely, the French and Italians-and if possible to reach an agreement with them which would allow the importation of the arms reutired.

Ras Taffari said that in 1899 the Abyseinian Government allowed the Sudan Government to establish a trading post on the River Baro, but there was no question of customs duties being collected. The Abyssinian Government did not wish the Sudan Government to be collecting dues which amounted to collecting taxes in Abyssinian territory, for in the various treaties with the Abyssinian Government there was nothing which gave the Sudan Government any right to collect such dues.

The Prime Minister said that this question was new to him, but he pointed out that the dues collected at Gambeila were shared equally between the Sudan and the Abyssinian Governments and were collected impartially on goods crossing from the Smoan into Abyssinia and vice versit. According to his information trade was on the increase, which was the best indication that the dues imposed were not excessive, and he understood that the system worked well and very much to the advantage of the Abyssinian Government.

Ras Taffari then referred to frontier difficulties. He said that, according to the creaty with the British Government, the frontier was shown on the map by a red line, but the treaty provided that it should be delimited on the ground by a joint Anglo-Abyssinian commission and clearly marked by beacons. This had not yet been done along the whole frontier.

The Prime Minister agreed that the delimitation was designable, and said that he would make no difficulty about it. He hoped, however, that when the British members of the commission arrived at the frontier the Abyssinian members would be there to meet them and would not fail to turn up as had happened on previous occasions. He also hoped that the Abyssiuian commissioners would have authority to settle questions

relating to the boundary on the spot.

Has Taffari replied that minor questions could be settled on the spot, but that nigger issues would have to be referred to the Central Government at Addis Ababa. He then referred to Lake Tsana, and said that the reason for which the Abyssimian overnment had failed to come to an agreement about the use of the lake was not a pirit of unfriendliness towards the British Government, but simply that public opinion was opposed to the construction of the dam and believed that it would not be in the aterest of Abyssinia. The Abyssinian Government had to consider public omnion. An

[687 q-1]

the first British proposal it was said that certain churches on islands in the lates be submerged, in which case compensation would be ptid. Res Taffari understook the British Government were now prepared to promise that the churches with midamaged and that the maximum level of the lake would not exceed that any the rainy season.

The Prime Minister assented.

Ras Taffari then said that what was in their mind was that the Abyssinian Gosernment itself should form an Abyssinian company which would construct the dam and would use the water for Abyssinian requirements, and any surplus would be sold by them to the Sudan Government.

The Prime Minister said that the British Government had had plenty of expensive experience of mistakes made in big engineering works and he had no desire that the Abyssinian Government should share such an unfortunate experience. He was so prepared to enter into any arrangement unless he was satisfied that the works had been properly designed and were going to be properly built, and he could not advise the Sudan Government to spend the large sums of money which would be necessary for the canalisation and preparation of the land until be had those assurances. He suggested that the Abyssinian Government should obtain the services of some thoroughly competent engineer, and he made the proposal that they should invite the Government of the United States to nominate such an engineer to report to them fully on the Tanas scheme.

Ras Taffari in reply said that of course the Abyssinian Government could cotycompetent engineer from America or from some other country, but that it was for the select him, and that their whole idea was that they themselves were going to our the work and be entirely responsible for it.

The Prime Minister, in conclusion, said that rumours had reached him that the Ahyssman Government believed that the British desire to build a reservoir masked a wish to interfere with the independence of Ahyssman. The exact opposite was the case, Once the dam was in existence it would be an essential British interest to see that at foreign Power interfered with the independence of Ahyssma. He was glad to have had this opportunity of hearing the Abyssmian views, but he would ask them now to put them in writing so that they should remain on record in the Foreign Office archives and should be available for consideration, as the British Government would have counterproposals to make

(Confedential 23 Doc 45 15 3mb-St E. A. Harding Wal Hym trackey. with region to un confidential / Shuckbury , Grindle. . Invis. No 2 of 28 4 Genster previous correspondence arresponding to 100000 of Chrendon delimitation of he from N'en of Eters a No Obyninia, I have the to the D**RAFT**. to pur a coss of a funtion inga Confidential letter from the total formanding P. VI Egin a despatibion the the hein is her are adio ababa adir asses which report was RAS TAFFARI Ray Tatari has again ununs 2 1 have had no ditioned I in concurring in the action when he south proposes to Taken I as made No Jan as to aste ... 104647675 No. 55782/25 75/1999. 12. 2/24 (4003) Ma

(restriction and concerns) and the case of the above hours 1 , feet that bas no aspropian for was the terms of the acting for despot of 10th begt from to me du la Kar alle de la Dewitaken g in france and he tenour of him arl of Clarendon or heat the state of the Vuhaquant correspondence precluded DRAFT. us from con uning define Glady to green to Francisco I had accertained four forty الماموية المرابع to cook. Even of the 3 for will father from Jos w. It is marge he letter from he toffere has no senstany? The to good condition perpenses does not anticipate hat he aspection +10.15712/25 Andrew was he hat he acker while he Anners to the cooper on the 6 wohale strange is the inner ax ali and one properties a support

represe to adio ababa aljustments and modifications 7 Fre Treaty frontices about our for and Strackey. nacellitated & tribal a J. Shuckburgh. i. Grindle. Davis. geographical unviduating . Wilson. Ormsby-Gore which can only be appreciated provide which places of Clarendon as his vifot " were would rafequard the pointing The Keure fort in connection fore front and lays down has Asyminia - Kenze has no france is to france the ditiones of de wided on the your no light of them. hice mak he wis which " I show he grad of make in Es work of Micially accepted by me

History minter at adiv abela semy windows ted, as he vis the for 200 the poposes, of far as the cetter frof 1/3/8/2/ from a me no, initia. Kenya tourtary alternation 11th of December provading is concerned, It was of a con , of a despot from the the U 5 mg 5 muiver at athir cheta if achie veeks for the repairing the demarcation of delimitation of Two practices The frankiers of adjustice. 82? corner it is - not possible " through I am to has the fort of hours wo request for to rug: vecy so asked is bear the ansken Chain berlain hat is far as abysainia - Sudan . Abynii a · Sandan and he alyninia - Vunalitand

MANY ME ELLEND ALL me achin did Dia 43.45 Chamberain Noposes to take. bowders, sweez, but he algoria. Vanaland amen fee Gas some Ormaby-Clove Sounday has not hitento irl of Clarendon. igus & & akit h been mentioned in him g he for of Little to correspondence me guestin the affects up is the correction in the arming fit , Supple to me letter from his ser the society of 30 h server of some bug to was a Sou Jan October 1919, turich en esta while was been a fine copier of wheel to with the - 4 44 14 forcem ment of vouncetand the will and with regard to the possibles. of delimina is

hew proposal for me delinitating to boundary addressed to Mi & fing two degrated which a 11 No 55 782/25

Downing Street.

55782/26.

March . 1926 .

Sir.

In reply to your letter Bo.J 3718/314/1 of the 4th of March I am directed by Mr. Secretary

Amery to request you to inform decretary Sir Austen

Chamberlain that no reply has yet been received to the despatch which was sent to the Governor of Aenya on the 23rd of December regarding the demarcation of the frontiers of Abyssinia. If no reply is received in the near fature, the overnor will be remained.

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four most obedient servant.

SORECRETARY OF STATE,

indiamlie g 13 in the · Hadding. hey. nuckburgh. vulle. 11 march, 1926. ... Ison. z Eui, stry Gore. arendon In reply to your br. 40. J3718/314/1 of the 4 th. of march . s. of S. office 9 am etc. to request you Noted market to my. Lesy. Li Dusken Chamberlain that it not considered that a sufficient time has clapsed

you a reply to be expected. to the desh. which was Eso. of Kenya on 11 4. Transver regarding me demorration of the frances of alyssima. but most rife a reply us not resol. in the new judice, the faces for mall be remembered & our exe. (Signed) W C. BOTTOMLEY.