

1925

KENYA

C O
56790

304

DATE

15th December 1925.

REC
RE 19 DEC 25

RELATION

SITUATION OF SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF ABYSSINIA.

U.S.A.S.

Two copy of a fact or despatch from Addis Ababa, enclosing copies of three despatches from H.M. Consul at Mega, which indicate an unwillingness to let go on the part of the Regent. Preparations for a further discussion are taken place at present.

MINUTES

This is becoming a little complicated as a matter in which so much depends on the goodwill of Emperor Ayesha. It is unfortunate that he should be upset, and refused to compel the Regent against their will to take such a course as is required. On the other hand, it is a pity that when we are engaged in the war against Abyssinia, we should have to drive the people back to their homes. The attention of the Government should be directed to the fact that the Abyssinians are not to be driven back to their homes. The attention of the Government should be directed to the fact that the Abyssinians are not to be driven back to their homes.

As regards the river, it does not seem likely yet that they have crossed into Abyssinia for any distance. Temporary grazing. If the river is of a more permanent nature, the Abyssinians will, of course, have a perfect right to drive them back, unless they are perverse enough to argue that if they are not

good

copy (without notes) copy made to be in copy 3 Dec 1925

Subsequent Paper

J.B. 928/26

40

In any further communication
on this subject, please quote
No. J 3625/1121/1.
Address—
not to any person by name,
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

56790
19 DEC 25

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FOREIGN OFFICE.
S.W.1.
19th December, 1925.

Sir,

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2375/2
with reference to the letter from this department
of the 30th ultimo, regarding the situation on the
southern frontier of Abyssinia, I am directed by Secretary
Sir Austen Chamberlain to request you to lay before Mr.
Secretary Amery the accompanying copy of a further
despatch on this subject from His Majesty's High Commissioner
at Addis Ababa.

As the whole situation is extremely complicated
and considerably since last August, Sir R. Chamberlain
proposes, subject to Mr. Amery's approval, to take
no action beyond the laying before of the High Commissioner
with Consuls Plowden and Hill, and to refer the matter
to the political paragraph of his despatch, for
the High Commissioner to report at a later date.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

John Murray

Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

23rd November 1925

306

Sir,

With reference to my despatches Nos. 175 and 178 of October 28th and November 2nd respectively, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of three further despatches from His Majesty's Consul at Moga; Nos. 50, 54 and 55 of October 5th and 19th respectively.

2. You will observe that the Government of Kenya have decided that the Degodia cannot be handed back by force. In paragraph 3 of my despatch No. 175 I suggested that if, after having been handed back to the Abyssinian authorities, they should again be badly treated, and so return to our side of the frontier, to repatriate them forcibly after this would be undesirable. I had understood, as had Major Miles and Fitaurari Ayella, that arrangements were being made on our side to hand these people back to the Abyssinian authorities hence my talks with Fitaurari Mapta Giorgis and Fitaurari Ayella recorded in my previous despatches on this subject. If, however, this is not now to take place, it will be necessary for me to give some explanation to Fitaurari Mapta Giorgis, who has shown himself most accommodating througho In view of Kenya despatch No. S.F.A. 22845/1/102 of June forwarded to you under cover of my despatch No. 74 of July and of your telegram No. 46 of August 20th. I consider I was justified in anticipating the return of these people and that it was necessary for me to see that Fitaurari

non.

Austin Chamberlain M.C.

etc., etc., etc.

should take steps to prepare for the reception of the Degodia on their repatriation from Kenya.

3. It is satisfactory to learn that Witeurari Ayella is anxious to co-operate with the Kenya Government, and that he has made a good start in his province.

4. When Major Miles comes to Addis Ababa I shall be able to discuss the whole question of these border tribes with him, in conjunction with Messrs. Laphiro and Florman who are both acquainted with the district in question. If we are able to agree upon some tangible scheme for a settlement of the problems to which Major Miles draws attention in his despatches, I shall revert to the matter at a later date.

I am forwarding copies of this despatch to the Kenya Government and to Major Miles.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

ADDRESS: "PRODROME,"
ADIS ABABA.



BRITISH CONSULATE,
MEGA MOUNTAIN,
SOUTHERN ABYSSINIA,
VIA BRITISH LEGATION,
ADIS ABABA.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM
KENYA COLONY TO BE
ADDRESSED: VIA MOYALE,
NORTHERN FRONTIER DISTRICT.

At MOYALE

5th October 1925

No 50/1/25

Sir,

308

I beg to acknowledge your following despatches
A. 19615/7/11/112 of August 22nd, minutes of a meeting
held at Government House, and A. 22845/4/15 of August 29th,
copy of a despatch on the Degodia, addressed to the Secretary
of State for the Colonies .

2. I have talked to Fitaurari Ayella, and have informed
him that the Government have decided that the Degodia cannot
be handed over to him by force, but that every facility will
be given him to interview Wobur Abdi and he can endeavour by
peaceful means to persuade them to return to Ethiopia .

Fitaurari Ayella is extremely disappointed at this decision
as he was firmly convinced, that the Degodia were to be handed
over to him , reference this, I beg to refer you Sir to your
No 22845/1/53 of September 9th 1924 containing a copy of a
despatch, of the late Governor's, addressed to the Secretary
of State for the Colonies, also the Officer's in-charge
Northern Frontier Province's despatch unnumbered of March 15th
1925 addressed to you .

Until the meeting held at Government House on August 22nd,
I understood that the orders issued by the late Governor,
that the Degodia were to be evicted, still held good .

The Honourable Colonial Secretary
The Secretariat

NAIROBI

ADDIS ABABA.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM
KENYA COLONY TO BE
FORWARDED VIA MOYALE,
NORTHERN FRONTIER PROVINCE.

ADDIS ABABA,
SOUTHERN AFRICA,
VIA BRITISH LEGATION,
ADDIS ABABA.

(2)

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You will remember, Sir, that this eviction was ordered in 1924, and in June of that year I was asked by the Officer-in-charge Northern Frontier Province to make arrangements with the Abyssinians Authorities to take over this tribe, reference this, I beg to refer you to my 33/1/24 of 15.8.24 addressed to you. Owing to the Degedia having spread all over the Northern Frontier Province and Jubaland, and to the fact that Fitaurari Ayella was ordered up to Addis-Ababa, it was not considered feasible to evict this tribe until October or November this year, ref this I would again refer you to the Officer-in-charge Northern Frontier Province's unnumbered despatch of March 15th 1925. I feel strongly that we have committed ourselves to hand over this tribe. Fitaurari Ayella cannot understand why the decision of the Government has been changed, as he was chosen especially by the Minister for War to take over this tribe, ref this, I beg to refer you to the despatch of His Majesty's Minister Addis-Ababa of July 13th, addressed to you. Fitaurari Ayella considers that he is now not thought a sufficiently big enough man to take over this tribe and that I have broken my promise.

As regards giving him every facility to interview Wober Abdi, the paramount chief of the Degedia, he looks upon this as absolutely useless, as he is certain that no peaceful persuasion will ever make this tribe return to Abyssinia. I agree absolutely with him as regards this.

ADDRESSES: ADDIS ABABA.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM
KENYA COLONY TO BE
ADDRESSED VIA MOYALE,
NORTHERN FRONTIER DISTRICT.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM
SOUTHERN ABYSSINIA,
VIA BRITISH LEGATION,
ADDIS ABABA.

(5)

With reference to para one of minutes of meeting held at Government House on August 22nd, I do not consider there is any necessity at present to go into the subject of status of tenants with Fitaurari Ayella; as he has now received the letter from the Minister for War, ordering him to allow all natives to water in peace at the border wells, a copy of this letter was sent to you in my No 44/1/25 of September 15th .

Fitaurari Ayella arrived here last week to meet Mr Jennings the Ag District Commissioner. He appeared most anxious to co-operate in every way with the Kenya Government. He has already shown this by arresting several Officials responsible for the late trouble on the frontier, and in many ways it is apparent to me that he is determined to put his province in order .

I have the honour to be
Sir,

Your most obedient servant

A. Thules May

H M Consul Southern Abyssinia

Copy to His Majesty's Minister

ADDIS ABABA.

Address: "PRODROME"
ADDIS ABABA.

RECEIVED
A.F.S.

311

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT
KANTO COMPANY LTD
SUBURBAN TA HOVALE
ADDIS ABABA

STANDARD TELEGRAMS
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
VIA BRITISH LEGATION,
ADDIS ABABA.

To 54/5/25

October 19th 1925

Sir.

I beg to acknowledge your despatch of August 20th, together with a letter from Fitaurari Hapt Georgis, which I received the day before yesterday.

I yesterday handed the letter to Fitaurari Ayelib, at the same time I informed that as far as I was aware, the Government's decision still held good, that the Degodia were not to be repatriated by force.

The Degodia situation has somewhat changed, some great many of them are grazing north of the Dawa river on the Abyssinian side of the frontier with their villages in British territory. Some five or six villages have crossed the new Anglo Italian frontier into the Marehan and Axiliban country, also they have again scattered owing to the short rains having broken and to the fact that the K A E patrols have had to be withdrawn, to patrol the new Anglo Italian frontier, and to act as escort to the Boundary Commission. As I think you are aware, Sir, about three quarters of the Gurre tribe have crossed over to Abyssinian territory, and as far as I can gather, the local Abyssinian officials are much more concerned, to the eventual disposal of this tribe, than they are about the Degodia returning to Ethiopia. The Gurre I understand are being accumulated in the country which was formerly inhabited by the Degodia. The Degodia are a truculent tribe and will start trouble where ever they go.

His Majesty's Ministers

ADDIS ABABA.

DATE ADDRESS: "PRODROME,"
ADDIS ABABA.
COMMUNICATIONS FROM
KENYA COLONY TO BE
ADDRESSED: VIA MOYALE,
NORTHERN FRONTIER DISTRICT.

312
SOUTHERN ARYEMURRA,
VIA BRITISH LEGATION,
ADDIS ABABA.

(2)

I enclose a copy of minutes of a meeting held at Government House on August 5th, at which I was present .

I was not aware of the acting Governor's despatch to you of June 9th to you, at the time of the meeting at Government House, and I only received a copy of this despatch in your letter of July 13th, which I received at Moyale in the beginning of September .

The Military administration has now been withdrawn from the N F P and a civil administration has ^{been} substituted with Civil police, the K A Rifles being stationed on the frontier only at Moyale. This would mean that if the Degodia are repatriated , there is now not a sufficient force on the frontier to stop them returning to British territory .

As regards para 1 of minutes, I do not think it is advisable, at the present moment, to bring up the question with Fitaurari Ayella, if I do so he will only refer me to the Minister for War. I would much rather, Sir, discuss the matter with you first before the matter is put to him officially .

I was leaving for Addis-Ababa today, but on receipt of your ^{despatch} ~~copy~~ of August 20th I have delayed my departure until I have received from the Hon Colonial Secretary, an answer to my 55/1/E5 a copy of which I have sent to you.

414q

I am glad to be able to report that ^{and} enormous improvement has taken place in this province since the arrival of Fitaurari Ayella . Last week has been most interesting . Fitaurari Ayella called all the local officials and chiefs here and held a conference, which lasted some seven days. Before holding this conference, Fitaurari Ayella informed me privately of the

CABLE ADDRESS
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
ADMISSIONS SECTION
CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DIVISION

BRITISH LEGATION,
SOUTHERN AVENUE,
VIA BRITISH LEGATION,
ADDIS ABABA.

(2)

of the measures of reform he was about to make, the reforms are the following .

- A That all taxes are to be gathered by the two chiefs of the Boran, Pitaurari Geddo and Pitaurari Gaya, these two will pay the taxes direct to Pitaurari Ayella, who will be responsible for the paying of the soldiery .
- B That no Abyssinian soldiery are to be billeted on the inhabitants, but in future they will be directly under Abyssinian Officers .
- C That in future Abyssinian soldiers are to be severely dealt with if they are found taking milk or meat from the inhabitants .
- D All refugee Boran who have returned from British territory to Abyssinia, are not to be molested, ^{in any way} or taxed for three years , and are to be placed under the protection of Pitaurari Geddo, the paramount Chief of the Sabba section of the Boran. I am glad to say that many have already returned .
- E That no natives are to be molested at the frontier walls, all are to water at peace whether British subjects or Abyssinian refugees .

Pitaurari Ualla Gabriel is being sent Addis-Ababa, to explain his conduct to the Minister for War . Several minor officials have been fined for their share in the late trouble on the frontier .

ADIS ABABA

BRITISH CONSULATE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

KENYA COLONY

ADDRESSING OFFICER

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

314
HANS KROEMER

SOUTHERN AFRICA

VIA EASTERN LINE

ADDIS ABABA

(4)

It is most gratifying to me, to see these much needed reforms at last ordered. I only hope that Fitaurari Ayella is strong enough to see them carried through, it appears to me that he has come back from Addis- Ababa greatly strengthened by the Minister for War, and with the departure of Fitaurari Walde Gabriel, he will be in sole command of the Province which will ease his task considerably.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant

A. T. Miller M.A.

H. M. Consul Southern Abyssinia.

October 19th 1925.

315

Sir,

With reference to my letter No. 50/1/25 of October 6th 1925, I yesterday received from His Majesty's Minister Addis-Ababa his despatch of August 20th together with a letter from the Minister for War to Fitaurari Ayella, a copy of this correspondence has already been sent to you. I yesterday handed the letter of the Minister for War to Fitaurari Ayella, at the same time I again told him that no force would be used to repatriate the Degodia. He informed me he had already received a copy of this letter some three weeks ago, by rumour direct from the Minister for War, which explains his disappointment at the Degodia not being handed over to him.

The Degodia situation has somewhat changed, as very many of them are grazing in Abyssinian territory north of the Dawa river, with their villages in British territory. I also have been informed that 5 or 6 villages have crossed the Anglo Italian boundary into the Marehan and Aulihan country, and many more are expected to do so. As you are aware Sir, very many of the Gurra tribe have crossed to Ethiopia and many of them are living in the Boran highlands and in the country lately evacuated by the Degodia. The local Abyssinian officials are worried at the eventual disposal of this tribe, as the Dirre Boran do not want them in their country, personally I am of the opinion that they will return to British territory, if they do so, the country south of the Dawa and Terkali will become so congested, that the same situation will arise as on the frontier opposite Moyale, when the Degodia will have to

return

return to Abyssinia to graze their herds, keeping their villages on the British side of the frontier, and on the first sight of an Abyssinian will flee back into British territory.

I was about to leave for Addis-Ababa today, but I am delaying my departure until I hear from you, if you have any further orders for me as regards the Bogolia.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

Sgd. A. T. Miles, M.A.

H.M. Consul Southern Abyssinia.

The Hon Colonial Secretary

HAIRGRI.

by His Majesty's Minister.

Addis - Ababa.

by Senior Commissioner i/o Northern Frontier Province.

Cliff. 23. XII. 25

Mackintosh 29.12 f

Ind

Wanda
276

- Strachey.
- Shuckburgh.
- Davis.
- Grindle.
- Masterton Smith.
- Ormsby-Gore.
- Inery.

31 December 1925

DRAFT. Conf. (2)

Governor Grigg
253196

Sir

I have it to refer to my
 Conf. Despatch of the 9th of
 December regarding the
 situation on the Southern
 frontier of Abyssinia and
 to transmit for your
 information copies of further
 correspondence with the
 Foreign Office on this matter.

2. The enclosures to the letter
 from the Foreign office are
 transmitted, ~~not sent herewith~~, as you
 will already have received
 them direct. They consist of
 the following documents:

18 XII. 25 (no Enclosures)
 (Opt herewith)

20pts

Despatch from H. M.'s Minister
at Addis Ababa to the
Foreign Office, No: 192 of the
3rd
9th of November

Despatches from H. M.'s Consul
at Mega Mountain to H. M.'s
Colonial Secretary
Napoli of the 8th & 19th of
October

Despatch from H. M.'s Consul
at Mega Mountain to H. M.'s
Minister at Addis Ababa of
the 10th of October

I shall be glad to
receive your observations on
these matters at an
early date particularly
with regard to the
movement of the Degodia
across the new Anglo-
Italian Boundary I would
point out that no stress
has been laid on the
necessity of the Italian
Government preventing the
Marcher from crossing

Harim.

Wey.

Wickburgh.

Wille.

Wiss.

Wism.

Witt.

Witten.

DRAFT.

(Signed) L. S. AMERY

the boundary, it will
be necessary to consider
what ~~steps~~ ^{steps} can be
sent to any ~~steps~~ ^{steps} ~~steps~~
next be prepared to
representations as to
give to the Italian of
our failure to prevent
the Degodia from crossing
into Italian territory.

319

- Mr. Cliffe 25 xii 25
- Mr. Mackenzie box 19/12/25
- Mr. [unclear]
- Mr. [unclear]
- J. Shackburgh
- Sir C. Davis
- Mr. G. Grindle
- Sir J. Muterston Smith
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore
- Mr. Amery

And

R 29 DEC
D 11 1

31 December 1925

DRAFT.

15/12/25

S of S,
Foreign Office

Sir.

copy to Gen. [unclear] 31 DEC 1925

I am so to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No: 53625/1121/1 of the 18th of December transmitting a ~~post~~ despatch from H.M.'s Ministers at Addis Ababa regarding the situation on the Southern Frontier of Abyssinia, and to request you to inform Secretary Sir Austin Chamberlain that Mr Amery concurs in the ~~attitude~~ attitude ~~contained~~ contained in the ~~situation~~ proposal in

delete for Mr. [unclear] Mr Bottomley's

(Signed) H. T. ALLEN,

for Under Secretary of State of ~~the~~ you letter