

1924

KENYA
SOMALILAND

53

C.P.O.
19336
24 APR 24

FROM

Foreign
Office

DATE

23rd April 1924

FOR CIRCULATION:-

- Mr. *William*
- Mr. *Bottrill*
- Mr. *Sturges*
- Asst. U.S. of S.

Abyssinian Incursions into
British Territory

Perm. U.S. of S.

Part U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Sends copy deep from Adis Ababa
with encl. regarding raid into British
land in August 1923

Previous Paper

40.9/B
19250

MINUTES

1112/ issued to T.T. Dept. 12

reference the said...
off...
ad. Dept of...

No separate for...
can be traced on the subject.

part by



? Tell F.O. Sec.

... about 7/11/24

Subsequent Paper

40.9/B
227/2
70/23291/25

... 44/2/24 ...

MINUTES.

MINUTES NOT TO BE WRITTEN
ON THIS SIDE.

of your part the former, all the
more we trust it would be
desirable for the latter report to
(1963-1964)

16
The result of my son's letter in 1912
is that in order to reply was given to
Mr. Harris
Revising should handle it at length
if the old book depending on long
Algonquin H/L should have been
revised. Keep in like this paper.
S. B. 24

1. seen in CR.

• R. E. 410
S. B.
I. B.

MINUTES.

MINUTES NOT TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

of your part the Governor, although he
was not there it would be
desirable to see Intelligence Report for
the period 1923. 55716/23)

NB

The result of inquiry should be in 7/12
is that an order is being given to

As Home
Registry should include that King
is the only built dependence on
Algeria. H/C should be

Registered King like this paper
Spain

has been in CR.

REA 3/12
1/23
1/23

In any further communication
on this subject, please quote

No. *£ 3447/362 /1*

and address—

not to any person by name,

but to—

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



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 copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office.

23rd April 1924

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date	Subject.
<p><i>Re M Representative Admiral Alcala No 25 of 27th March 1924</i></p>	<p><i>Allysonman said into British territory</i></p>

Similar letter sent to

Addis Ababa

27th March 1924

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 43 of the 27th ultimo, I note that in your reply to the question in Parliament on Abyssinian raids into British territory there is no mention of an incursion into Somaliland which took place in August last. I beg to transmit herewith a despatch from the Governor of that Colony on the subject of which I had expected your Department to be informed through the Colonial Office. I have not thought necessary to trouble you with the enclosures to Colonel Summers' report which contains the depositions of witnesses to the raid.

On receipt of the information in question, I addressed a strong representation to the Abyssinian Government making demands in the sense of the fourth paragraph of Colonel Summers' despatch. I have not yet been able to obtain satisfaction. I recently saw Mr. Taffari and informed him that I must make a point of this matter being settled before his departure for Europe.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

your most obedient,

humble servant,

(signed) Claud Russell

The Hon.

James Ramsay MacDonald M.P.

etc. etc. etc.

Addis Ababa
27th March 1924

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 43 of the 27th ultimo, I note that in your reply to the question in Parliament on Abyssinian raids into British territory there is no mention of an incursion into Somaliland which took place in August last. I beg to transmit herewith a despatch from the Governor of that Colony on the subject of which I had expected your Department to be informed through the Colonial Office. I have not thought necessary to trouble you with the enclosures to Colonel Summers' report which contains the depositions of witnesses to the raid.

On receipt of the information in question, I addressed a strong representation to the Abyssinian Government making demands in the sense of the fourth paragraph of Colonel Summers' despatch. I have not yet been able to obtain satisfaction. I recently saw Ras Taffari and informed him that I must make a point of this matter being settled before his departure for Europe.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

your most obedient,

humble servant,

(signed) Claud Russell

The Rt. Hon.

James Ramsay MacDonald M.P.

etc. etc. etc.

10th October, 1925.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your telegram of 8th September and my reply dated 15th September and to forward a full report of the occurrence referred to in the latter part of my telegram.

2. The rumour which reached the Heir Apparent with regard to my having crossed the border with an armed party is of course entirely baseless. At the end of August I proceeded from Hargeisa to Baraso but at no time on this journey did I cross the border or approach it very closely. The road which I followed is quite direct via Gibeli and Arreberar. It so happens that on this journey I received a report of the raid into British territory by an Abyssinian tax collecting party, which is dealt with fully in the enclosure to this letter. In this raid a British protected subject was killed, many others were fired upon and a certain quantity of property stolen. Had the natives not driven off their stock it not to be doubted that further property would have been taken. The raid occurred two days before my arrival on the scene. The Abyssinians have doubtless concocted the story of my

crossing

OLAND RUSSELL ESQUIRE,

HIS MAJESTY'S ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY

AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY,

BRITISH LEGATION,

ADDIS ABABA,

ABYSSINIA.

crossing the border in order to cover their own violation of British territory.

57

5. These incursions of Abyssinian tax collecting parties into British territory have constantly occurred in the past and I think you will agree with me that it is highly desirable to take steps to prevent them. In 1917 the late Governor while in that part of the protectorate actually apprehended a large party in British territory under Tekla Hariat late Governor of Jigjiga. In 1919 repeated raids into British territory were carried out by parties of Abyssinians under one Ato Mangasha. They have been of not infrequent occurrence since, though the Abyssinians have usually refrained from using violence. In the raid now reported they abandoned this precaution. These raids usually occur in the neighbourhood of Jifa Medir where the boundary is most clearly marked by the Hills of Jifa Medir, Egu and Sau. The Abyssinians are well aware of the position of the border and know that they are within their rights in camping at Ow Barra which is just on their side. This point forms a useful base for raids into British territory. The status of the Gadabursi tribe is of course well known to you. There has been some correspondence as to the status of certain sections who normally reside in Abyssinian territory but the British Government on the expressed opinion of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs have maintained the standpoint that members of the Gadabursi tribe as a whole are British subjects. When the boundary was fixed by the Remondet Treaty of 1897 it was agreed that Gadabursi grazing or for the time being in Abyssinian territory were under jurisdiction of the Abyssinian Government while in Abyssinian territory. Whether this entitles the Abyssinian Government to levy taxes from them is open to doubt but in view of the

recognized

recognized difficulties connected with it this Government has not so far opened the question. That the Abyssinians have no right whatever to enter British territory and attempt to levy taxes either with or without violence from the Gadabursi or any other tribes, is not open to question. I am well acquainted with the area and there is no doubt whatever as to the villages attacked being within British territory and this is borne out by the bearings taken by Captain Long on the hills of Egu, Jifa Medir and Jifa Uri from the scene of the occurrence. The villages are of a semipermanent nature and surround with cultivation.

4. In the circumstances I consider that the Abyssinian Government should be called upon to return all property stolen to the value of Rs. 200, to pay full compensation for the man killed at a rate according with Somali custom namely 100 camels of an average value of £2, or £200 in cash. Further I consider that they should be called upon to express their sincere regret for the occurrence and to give assurances as to the future. I should be grateful if you would be so kind as to inform me of your views on the subject and as to what action you deem it desirable to take to obtain compensation for the outrage and ensure against further occurrences of this nature in the future. I also suggest for your consideration the desirability of calling in question the conduct of the Governor of Jigjiga who is undoubtedly to blame for permitting such occurrences of which he cannot fail to be aware. That the Abyssinians have thought fit to trump up a story about my having crossed their border with an armed party in order to cover their conduct hardly calls for comment in the circumstances. I do not think that the fact that some Somalis are willing to guide these raiding parties in return for bribes has any bearing on the matter.

5. I regret that this despatch has been delayed through my having called for compass bearings in order to obviate any doubt as to the position of the place where the outrage occurred in regard to the Anglo Abyssinian border.

6. The raids usually occur at the same time of year namely July, August and September. If it is not possible to obtain redress and some reasonable assurance for the future it will be necessary to take military measures in the future to protect the border. These will involve special financial provision and I should greatly regret such a necessity.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sgt. G.H. Sumner.

GOVERNOR.