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KENYA
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31 JAN 21

FOREIGN

ABYSSINIA

1921

28th JANUARY

Fwds copy of desp. from Adis Ababa enclosing Major H
Hawkins' report for November and reporting that that
officer left for Magi on Decr 15th.

Last previous Paper.

3397

Partly

3397

Partly

Next subsequent Paper.

7010

in subject, please quote
No. *A 463/212/P*
Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W. 1.

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THE Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to *the Under Secretary of State Colonial Office* and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copies of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
25th January 1921

20/2307/1

Reference to previous correspondence.

*Foreign Office Letter A 212/212/1
of 19th January*

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
<i>From Major Dods Sir A. Geddes Adis Ababa, (Washington) Despatch No 163 of 20th December</i>	<i>Major Hawkins' report for November and the question of his meeting officers from the Sudan and East Africa at Moru Akippe mountain</i>

Similar letter sent to

December 20th. 1920.

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My Lord:-

I have the honour to transmit for Your Lordship's information copy of Major E. B. Hawkins' report for the month of November.

With reference to the last paragraph of this report. At the last interview with the Central Government reported in my despatch No. 152 of December 6th. the question of a meeting between Major Hawkins and officers from the Sudan and East Africa at Mera Akippi mountain in April next was discussed. The Abyssinian Government raised no objection to the meeting but gave a non-committal reply to my suggestion that Dejazmatch Desta should accompany Major Hawkins.

Major Hawkins left Adis Ababa on Wednesday December 15th. for Magi with all the necessary passes for his journey. He will travel via Gardula and the Moras in order to meet Captain Moisen, His Majesty's Consul for Southern Abyssinia, and discuss frontier matters with that officer.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient

humble servant,

The Right Honourable,

The Earl Curzon of Kedleston, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

Signed J. R. Dodds.

cc.

cc.

cc.

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

British Legation.

Adis Ababa.

79

December 3rd, 1920.

H. B. M's Charge d'Affaires.

Adis Ababa.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit herewith my report for November, 1920.

Copies of this report have been forwarded to the Sudan and Kenya Governments for their information.

1. Arrival.

Since my arrival at Adis Ababa on October 12th, I have been engaged in buying mules and equipment for my journey to Maji. These purchases were completed and I was ready to leave for Maji by the end of November.

2. Abyssinian Government action re. the Maji question.

Full reports of the negotiation leading up to the final settlement of the Maji question are set forth in your despatches as under:-

No. 125 of November 2nd.

No. 141 of December 1st.

No. 152 of December 6th.

copies of which have been sent to H. E. The Governor, Kenya Colony, and to H. E. The Governor General of the Sudan.

As soon as the final settlement was reached, Dejaz Desta Beru was invited to lunch at the Legation and I was able to have a long conversation with him. He enumerated the difficulties with which he was faced on returning to his province. He stated that he was unpopular with the older men of his province owing to his youth, education and modern tendencies. Further that, owing to his having been absent from his province for

for over three years, a great many of his own soldiers had turned "shiftas" or brigands in the expectation that he would, in all probability, never return to the province.

He added that his greatest difficulty would be to explain to his people that a large slice of territory which they had considered as theirs for many years was really British territory and that in future no man must cross it.

I sympathised with the Dejazmatch over his difficulties and told him that I for my part would do my best to support him and to help him put his province in order. Whether he has the power to do so remains to be seen.

3. Departure for Maji.

In the hopes of leaving for Maji before the end of December via Gardulla where I hope to meet a Hedson the Consul for Southern Abyssinia. He will be able to give some valuable hints and suggestions owing to his unique experience in dealing with frontier matters over a number of years. Dejaz Desta hopes to leave for Maji direct in six weeks time. My detention here has been beneficial in many ways. It has enabled me to read up all the files in the Legation relating to frontier affairs and to meet and discuss the situation with the leading members of the Abyssinian Government.

4. Frontier adjustments.

As requested by you, I attach a memorandum on possible adjustments of our frontier in South Western Abyssinia for your consideration. I hope that the matter may be

may be taken up early both in the Sudan and Kenya so that, when a Boundary Commission is appointed, the broad ideas as to the compensation desired may have been discussed and settled.

Before thinking of surrendering any part of the "Boma Plateau" to the Abyssinians it is essential that the Sudan Government should have a detailed report and accurate map of the whole area under discussion.

These I propose to prepare as soon as possible after my arrival at Maji.

Meanwhile I should be glad to know as early as possible the extent of the adjustments if any required by the Sudan Government further north.

5. Maru Akippi Conference.

In order that there should be no misunderstanding with regard to my meeting officers from the Sudan and East Africa at Maru Akippi Mountain in April next I informed the Abyssinian Government of the project at my last audience with them. No objections were raised and the meeting will take place on April 15th as arranged.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed E.B.Hawkins, Major,

H.B.M's Consul, Maji.

South Western Abyssinia.)