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FOREIGN  
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SITUATION IN ABYSSINIA

1921

2nd Job

not previous Paper

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Trans copy despatch from Addis Ababa re

Am. 60000

This is above your other and

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Accts

J. 2. 2. 21

Cl. business - 8th  
S. A. Reed - 8th

I enclose a copy to illustrate the  
proceedings of Sir J. H. Dodds (See  
preceding page) & party to start the end of March  
and which is available for Addis - this  
connection with Governor's recent proposal.

Cl. 3. 2.

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Stone  
A. J. A.  
5/17/21

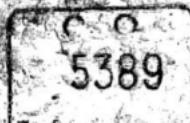
Next edition (newspaper)

further correspondence  
subject, please state

A-464/1464/10

not to any person by name.

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  
Colonial Office and, by direction of the Secretary of State,  
transmits herewith copy of the paper mentioned above.

Foreign Office,  
2nd February, 1921.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Foreign Office Letter A 9045/1672/1  
of 6th January

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
<p><u>From</u> Major Rodda (Adis Ababa) Despatch No 164 of 20th December</p>	<p>Political situation in Abyssinia</p>

14-4794-  
10000-11780

Similar letter sent to War Office

ADIS ABABA.

December 20th, 1920.

My Lord:-

I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that there is no change in the political situation as reported in my despatch No. 150 of December 2nd.

Signor Piacentini, my Italian colleague, told me a few days ago that he had learned from his agent at Adoua that Lij Yessu had broken his parole to Ras Seyoun, and after having made his guards drunk, had escaped again to the British Country. Signor Piacentini expressed his opinion that now Ras Seyoun was disengaged of any obligation to Lij Yessu he would in all probability respond to the summons of the Central Government and come into Addis Ababa.

Ras Taffari with whom I have discussed this new phase tells me that he knows no more than Signor Piacentini has told us both. He gave me the impression that he placed no reliance on the report and remarked that time would prove the truth.

Preparations for the proposed expedition to the North are hanging fire. On the other hand Ras Taffari proposes to send another mission consisting of thirty chiefs to discuss matters with Ras Seyoun. In this connection he asked me if the authorities at London could

Right Honourable,

supply

Sir Herbert Curzon of Kedleston, K.G., G.C., G.I., G.O.I.B.

so. so. so.

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State

for Foreign Affairs.

supply a British man of war to take his mission with all speed from Jibuti to Massawa. He asked me to treat the request as confidential. I replied that as far as I was aware the only official ship under the control of the Aden authorities was a small Indian Marine gun boat which was assigned at Aden and was unlikely to be available owing to her duties along the Arabian coast.

However in order not to appear obstructive I promised to ask the Resident at Aden if a ship was available. I have not done so as I do not think we should be well advised to supply a British man of war to convey a political Abyssinian mission from Jibuti to Massawa; and it is quite possible that were we to do so we should call forth a protest from France and Italy for contravening the terms of the Tripartite Treaty. I shall in due course inform the R.S. with regret that, as I anticipated, the only official vessel is absent from Aden, and consequently not available.

I am addressing copies of this despatch to Cairo, Khartoum, Nairobi, Berbera and Aden.

I have the honour to be,  
With the highest respect,  
R. H. Dodds,

Your Lordship's most obedient  
humble servant,