

ITALY

24683
Recd
15 MAY 21

DATE
19TH MAY 1931

SUBJECT
JUBALAND

SESSION OF TERRITORY TO ITALY

Enclosed copy of memo. from Italian Embassy giving reasons which oblige the Italian Govt to maintain its point of view with regard to the movements of the Marecham.

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr. Grouble.
- Sir H. Lambert.
- Sir H. Ross. 25/5/21
- Sir G. Fisher
- Col. Amery
- Mr. Chamberlain

Previous Paper

MINUTES

23118

Dr. Roberts 3 papers
Mr. Chamberlain
Enclos 22009 + 23118

has a very friendly letter
to me & efficient. Think,
for so. to the the Italian
Embassy that a copy letter is
being sent to the post of Kenya.
and in writing to so. we should
take the opportunity to the time
that information has now been
received from the post that the
Government has been answered but the
mainly the two platforms of one
member of the D.A. are being
discussed by the platform of one

Recd 23 May 21
Copy comes for Conf 23 May 21
James Muller's 22 papers

22

In any further communication
on this subject, please state
No. *A3237/12/60*
and address—
not to any person by name,
but to—
"The Under Secretary of State,"
London, E.W. 1.

24683
REC'D
15 MAY 21

279

The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his
compliments to the Under Secretary of State for
the Colonies and in transmitting herewith, by direction
of the Secretary of State, the under-mentioned paper, would
be pleased to be returned to the



Respondent:
[Signature]
Subject:

No. *M.H.*
May 6

...ments of the
Mechan in Jubaland.

Similar letter sent to

1144.

ITALIAN MEMORANDUM.

MEMORANDUM.

By its memorandum dated April 9 last (No. 222), the Italian Embassy stated that it had been reported to the Italian Government that the British authorities in Jubaland, who had in the past allowed the Merchan to move towards the Dawa and the Northern Frontier, were now tending to turn this tribe back from the Northern Frontier, from which latter territory the Merchan were entering the territory which forms the subject of the negotiations for transfer taking place between the Italian and the British Governments.

By its note of April 26 last (No. 274), the Foreign Office replied to the Italian Embassy that the country of the Merchan, properly so-called, was the western part of Jubaland, i.e., of the territory which was to be ceded to Italy.

The Italian Embassy begs to point out briefly that the country of the Merchan cannot be precisely referred to, since it is known that this tribe (similarly to other tribes of East Africa) has no permanent place of residence, but, in the same way as all pastoral tribes, is nomadic and is constantly moving about to look for better water and pasturage. It is for this reason that, in the strict sense of the word, it does not appear necessary to discuss the question of the territory of the Merchan.

It is, on the other hand, a fact that, since the proposed transfer excludes the Lovian and Wegehri zones, which are centres for pasturage and watering, it will not be possible for the Italian Government - even admitting that the Merchan

came gradually from the Northern part of Jubaland - to arrange for them to remain within this zone, and that exactly for the same reason as the one which caused them to migrate therefrom.

In reality, the majority of these tribes is at present still within the territory of the Dana and of the Northern Frontier, and it is for this very reason that the Italian Government sees no necessity for them to be unnecessarily moved further east, since, if they were formerly in the territory referred to above, there is now no reason why they should not have moved away from it.

The Italian Government is well aware of the fact that the Mercha should not be moved west, in order that the Galla might be protected, which is a reason exclusively concerning the British authorities; but, for the same reason, the latter consider it necessary to take steps with regard to the Galla, the Italian Government would point out that it is just as expedient that similar steps should be taken with regard to tribes east of the zone presently occupied by the Mercha, who, as is well known, do not cherish friendly sentiments towards them.

It is for these reasons that the Italian Government cannot do otherwise than maintain its point of view with regard to this question.

Rome, May 6, 1941.

70 Kenya
24683
21

Ans 26/7/21

23

23 May 1921

Sir
I am to acknowledge the receipt of your

DRAFT.

U.S. Leg

Foreign Office
MINUTE.

letter No. A. 3237/12/60 of the 19th of May

concerning a translation

Jewell 21.5.21
of Battell's letter

note from the Italian Embassy

Mr. Boltram 21.5.21
Mr. Grindle

regarding the movements of the

Sir H. Lambert.

MAREHAN

Sir H. Ead.

Marehan - Kenya

Sir G. Fiddes.

Col. Amery.

Mr. Churchill.

Copy for Col 23 May 21

2. A copy of the note

sent to the Gov. of Kenya, and the

Charge of the Italian Embassy

is to inform the Italian Ambassador

3. I am to take this opportunity

of requesting your assistance

HR