

1921

KENYA

C.S.  
62810  
REC-19

NAME  
ORSEY, SIR E.

GRADE  
PVTE

DATE  
16TH NOVEMBER 1921

FOR CIRCULATION

SUBJECT

ABYSSINIAN FRONTIER

EVACUATION OF GADDADUMA

Gives précis of events leading up to and states as to good work done by Mr Waddington. Considers position now satisfactory.

- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr. Grindle
- Sir H. Lambert
- Sir H. Bond
- Mr. Massington Smith
- Mr. Wood
- Mr. Churchill

Previous Paper

MINUTES

40/61603

*Mr. Bostwick*

The first 8 pages of the Minutes relate to past history, into which it does not seem necessary to go. The important part is page 9 as to the crisis of the evacuation, which seems an adequate answer to Mr Russell's attack on the action of the General Committee in 40 3203. As, however, you point out in your minute a

*What copy of the minutes 40 3203 is to be made*

Subsequent Paper

0702  
25

67603, Mr Russell  
appears alone, to have  
changed his mind as  
to subject

A

Ask our bank, saying  
that it appears Spectator  
to dispute of Mr Russell's  
charges or that a copy  
will be sent privately to go

And send a copy privately  
to Mr Sterling (Mr Sterling  
himself is still in Washington)

MS

Saying that we don't want the water  
to be carried any further with  
Mr Russell but that we should  
be sure to be both sides of  
the case - draw attention to

A.

Oct. 21. 18. 18

for all

at

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
KENYA,  
EAST AFRICA.

62810

Rt

REC-19 OCT 21 16th November 1921.

Dear Bottomley,

Very many thanks for sending me on Russell's despatch re the evacuation of Gaddaduma. I can well understand that the Foreign Office did not wish the content officially communicated - I hope the following precis will explain the reason.

1. After a long period of lawlessness on the Border we found it necessary to take some action to protect our own natives and to enable them to water at the wells, and, accordingly, in December 1920, we informed the Colonial Office that we would occupy Gaddaduma provided we could do so without opposition. As a result Dodds cabled to the Foreign Office protesting.
2. Since it was too late to cancel the orders for the occupation we informed the Charge d'Affaires at Adis Ababa that we would evacuate Gaddaduma immediately. Hapta Georgis arrived in person to restore order on the Frontier.
3. We followed this up by a despatch to Adis Ababa saying that if the coming of Hapta Georgis did not result in permanent order being maintained we reserved to ourselves the right to re-occupy.
4. In April the Officer-in-Charge, Northern

Frontier District, was instructed to make a formal ceremony of handing over Gaddaduma and a copy was sent to Adis Ababa.

5. At the end of April we received a note from Adis Ababa saying the Abyssinian Government had been informed that we would leave Gaddaduma if Hapta Georgis went there and the Government would give an assurance that good order would be maintained.

6. On the 8th March, 1921, we received a letter from Adis Ababa thanking us for our promise to evacuate Gaddaduma on the restoration of order.

7. On May 9th Russell informed me that Dejasmach Assaufau was being despatched to the Southern Frontier and enclosed a copy of a letter he had sent to Arnold Hodson stating that the Abyssinian Government had been informed that he believed "once complete order is established on the frontier the departure of the British troops from the place in question will not be delayed". The letter further stated that on the arrival of Assaufau in the District the British Authorities should avoid all hazardous proceedings or aggressive attitude.

8. On the receipt of the above we sent orders to the Officer-in-Charge, Northern Frontier District, that Assaufau should only be accepted as a substitute for



Hapta Georgis when he was satisfied that permanent improvement had been effected. At the same time we informed Adis Ababa that we were averse to leaving Gaddaduma immediately on the arrival of Assaufau, and we suggested that we should remain until it appeared that Assaufau's administration was going to be successful. Russell wired on the 22nd June that he agreed to this.

9. In the middle of July Assaufau reached the frontier with a force estimated by Hodson at 4,500 rifles. The latter thought that in all probability the Dejazmatch had come down with orders to occupy Gaddaduma, and his whole attitude confirmed the fact that this was his intention. His followers were pressing him to commence hostilities against us and the situation was threatening. Mr. Waddington, whom I consider handled a most difficult situation in a most skilful manner, succeeded in obtaining from Assaufau a written promise to restore and keep order on the border and punish malefactors. Not until then, and until he was satisfied that Assaufau was a suitable substitute for Hapta Georgis and really intended, and was capable, to carry out his written word did he issue orders for the evacuation to take place. In view of



Russell's letters referred to in para 7 I cannot see that any other possible course could have been followed. To have remained on would certainly have been a hazardous proceeding.

10. Throughout the whole period under review the Legation at Adis Ababa have never urged on us that we should retain Gaddaduma - their attitude has always been one of a mild disapprobation at our being there coupled with a pious hope that no serious military situation would develop. Had Mr Waddington not acted as he did hostilities would certainly have commenced and probably have spread along the border.

11. I believe that we are now in a very strong position with regard to that portion of the frontier in the neighbourhood of Gaddaduma. We have the written assurance of the accredited agent of the Abyssinian Government that he will restore and maintain order and punish malefactors. Failure to do so gives us a strong diplomatic lever and in the event of Gaddaduma being evacuated and disorder resulting ample justification for re-occupation by our Troops.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Edward Northey*



m Kanga  
6280/21

of which was enclosed in  
the confidential despatch  
of 14 Dec

(61603)

I am sending a copy  
of your letter forwarded  
to me 90

Your sincerely

(Sgd) W.B.

signature  
of the Secretary

23 Dec 1921

DRAFT

J. Seymour Esq

MINUTE

- Mr. Jewell 21. 12. 21
- Mr. Battersby 21
- Mr. Battersby 21. 12. 21
- Mr. Grindle
- Sir H. Lambert
- Sir H. Wood
- Sir J. Macdonald Smith
- Mr. Wood
- Mr. Churchill

16 Dec 1921

Dear Seymour  
Shedley's  
absence, Send copy herewith

copy of a letter from Northey

regarding the evacuation of

Gaddadama. It is a copy

to a letter from me enclosing a

copy of Marshall's despatch

from Adis Ababa No 114 of the

19th of May - see Shedley's

letter to Sir Herbert Read

A 6592/14/1 of the 14th of May

2. See draft and file

(66325)

15



matter carried any further with

Russell, but we should like to

you to see the other side of the case.

In any event Russell appears to have

changed his mind on the subject, see

his despatch No 153 of the 17<sup>th</sup> of Nov

(60602)

(Sga) WCB