

EAST AFRICA

20222

Rec'd 22 APR 20

20222

89

C.A.G.
BOARING 245

1920

8th March

previous Paper

7311

ABYSSINIAN-EAST AFRICA BOUNDARY.

Improved coordination may result from transfer of administration of N.F.D. to Milty but action is deferred till settlement of Jubaland frontier has been decided by Brit and Italian Govts. Local offrs shd be given discretion to disregard frontier when pursuing marauding bands.

Re Kitchener

as to boundary delimitation.

In following up, see the N/17311/20

with regard to reply letter

that

is coming
in direct

that

which to date not received. It is

and is ready forwarded by N/17311/20

N/17311/20 sent for D.O. reply off

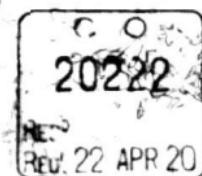
letter on N/17311/20

on return has rec'd. accts 27 apr 20

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
NAIROBI

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

90
20 March, 1920.



My Lord,

DO 69064
receipt of Colonel Amery's despatch No. 1369 of
the 13th December last, and in reply to his
inquiries on the question of delimiting the
Abyssinian-East Africa frontier to refer Your
Lordship to the views expressed in my despatch
Sc 16370 No. 155 of the 13th February.

2. I am of opinion that under present conditions the patrols carried out by the King's African Rifles and local Constabulary have proved sufficiently effective. Improved co-ordination may result from the transfer of administration in the Northern Frontier District to the military authorities, as approved in Your Lordship's telegram of the 11th November. But action in this respect is deferred until a definite agreement of the Jubaland frontier has been decided by the British and Italian Governments, so as to facilitate for the troops simultaneously to control the whole area.

RIGHT HONOURABLE

VISCOUNT MELVILLE, R.A., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., A.C. B.V.C.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

BONDING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

2.

area contiguous to the Protectorate's northern
line of boundary. 91

3. The reluctance of the Boran refugees to return to their former homes despite encouragement from the East African officials is to my mind a tribute to the efficacy of the British patrols as is the present security of the Gurra grazing grounds on the Daua river from the depredations of the Degodia across the border. A reconciliation has been effected recently between the two last-named tribes through the mediacy of the British and Abyssinian local representatives which furnishes additional proof of respect for the power of our protection. The unfortunate mutiny last January in a detachment of the King's African Rifles has been shown to be an isolated factor, due more to the unsuitable personality of the officer, who met his death, than to any general discontent or disaffection amongst the border. A despatch on this matter is being drafted for Your Lordship's information.

4. I feel convinced that as far as the East African frontier is concerned the ability of the patrols to suspend depultory raids is due more to the limitations of the existing boundary and the lack of administration in the outlying areas of Abyssinia than to any inherent defect in the system adopted. The position is greatly ameliorated by co-operation with Captain Hedges.

the British Consul and frontier Agent at Moga. 92
but can only be entirely remedied by a more self-contained line of frontier and improved control by the officials in the adjoining territory. Until the latter conditions are assured I consider that for effective action against invading marauders it is essential to give local officers discretion to disregard frontier restrictions, and to impress upon the central Government at Adis Ababa that this discretion will be continued until they have shown themselves capable of exercising a firm and permanent authority in their border districts.

5. The question of an indemnity from Abyssinia materially affects the Protectorate, but I recognise that circumstances preclude the repetition of such a demand at the present time and that it is best to leave the question to the discretion of the Foreign Office.

This is my opinion to be,

Your Obedient Servt.
A. G. Stirling
A. G. Stirling
Acting Governor.

ACTING GOVERNOR.