

EAST AFRICA

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RECORDING 245

1920

ABYSSINIAN-EAST AFRICA BOUNDARY.

By March

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 efforts shd be given discretion to disregard frontier when pursuing marauding bands.

previous Paper

7311

No further

as to boundary delimitation.

in the reply, see N/17311/20

reply to that

sub

coming  
advent

that  
as is usually presented by N/17311/20

sequent Paper

72683

Wait for 70 reply etc  
let see what is letter on N/17311/20  
on return but 27. acc'd 27.4.20

DIARY PROTECTIVE  
NO. 245

90  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

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6<sup>th</sup> March, 1920.

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My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the 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 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 settlement of the Jubaland frontier has been decided by the British and Italian Governments, as it is desirable for the troops simultaneously to control the whole area.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
VISCOUNT MANNING, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., &c. &c.  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
BONNING 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 Gurre 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 desultory 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 defects in the system adopted. The position is greatly ameliorated by co-operation with Captain Hodson.

the British Consul and Frontier Agent at Mega. 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 Government of the United Kingdom.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
[Signature]

ACTING GOVERNOR.