

1923

KENYA

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C.S.  
40102

Rep. Soc.  
Circular

Conf.  
407

DATE

13th July 1923

REF.  
P. 11 AUG 23

CIRCULATION:-

SUBJECT

Abyssinian frontier

Send report on  
affairs

U.S. of S.  
L. H. [unclear]  
15/8/23

U.S. of S.  
U.S. of S.  
Secretary of State

Previous Paper

W  
62870  
'21

MINUTES

An interesting report - also  
far as things go at the  
time of writing, pretty  
satisfactory.

We have heard of the  
Guruch. Degodia settlement  
located in a mountain  
Dip. relating the incident  
between Guruch tribesmen  
& the escort which  
accompanied the Guruch  
chief who went to collect  
tribute.

? with receipt ~~of the~~ say  
this report read with interest -  
sent to P.O. for info of  
af. on 5/8/23 copy  
of the Dip. [unclear]

U.S. - 22 Aug 23  
X ca

at [unclear]  
14.8.23  
H J [unclear]

to [unclear] will  
be [unclear] [unclear]

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KENYA.

No. 407.

CONFIDENTIAL.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
KENYA.

13th July, 1923.

40102  
21 JUL 1923

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32063  
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My Lord Duke,

With reference to Lieutenant Colonel Notley's Confidential despatch No. 241 of September 13th, 1921, I have the honour to submit for Your Grace's information a report on recent events on that portion of the Anglo-Abyssinian Frontier lying between Italian Somaliland and Lake Rudolf.

It will be convenient if the affairs of the Western or Rudolf area, the Central or Moga area and the Eastern area are dealt with separately. These areas are known as the Hamakohe, Boran and Yaben Provinces respectively.

2. Turning first to the Boran Province, reference to the above mentioned despatch shows that when Moga was evacuated by our troops in July 1921 it was in a condition of evacuation that Dejanatch Assef, Commander of the Abyssinian troops in that area, should give a written assurance that good order would be restored in the Boran Province. It is satisfactory to record that this promise has been kept.

The officials consulted with the Boran Province are Hapta Georgia, the War Minister, who lives at Adis Ababa, Fitaurari Ayala who resides in the Province as Civil Governor, and Ato Gabra who is in military command on the border; the last named is the nominee of Hapta Georgia and has

GRACE  
THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE, K.G., P.C., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,  
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

under him paid troops from Addis Ababa. He is described by British Officers who have met him as a man of outstanding personality and he undoubtedly has the advantage over his predecessors that he has with him soldiers who receive regular pay and are thus relieved of much of the temptation to plunder their nearest neighbours.

Colonel Llewellyn reports that Ato Gabru during his first year at Gaddaduma sought for and fought the *shifras* (brigands) and kept his area in complete peace. During the past few months his position has been more difficult but he has shown himself ready and able to deal with the local situation. He is liked by the Gurreh, who use the wells at Gaddaduma, and his reputation amongst the tribes is that of a straight and just Abyssinian. It must, however, be remembered that Fitaurari Ayala and not Ato Gabru is the Governor of the Boran Province, and that the latter is of little consequence in purely provincial affairs. He has therefore often to act under great difficulties which are not lessened by the suspicion with which he is regarded by Fitaurari Ayala and other Provincial Officials. Fitaurari Ayala is himself in an equally difficult position as neither he nor his soldiers receive regular pay and are dependent on the taxes they can obtain from the local tribes. It seems to be the policy of the Ethiopian Government to keep these two officials as a check upon one another.

3. The immigration into our territory of Abyssinian subjects continued to the end of 1922. Whole portions of the Boran Province are reported to be depopulated.

depopulated. The soldiers of Fitaurari Ayala are for this reason deprived of their opportunity of living on these people and are not unnaturally tempted to turn brigands and to follow the late tenants into our territory. During the first four months of this year no further migrations have been reported but the position is still unsatisfactory.

These migrations have increased so much in recent years that the Northern Area of our territory is now over-populated with resultant hardship to our own subjects. Orders have therefore been issued that Abyssinian subjects who cross the border with their stock in future shall be ejected from our territory. This order does not apply to refugees who cross without stock.

In February last Captain Cochran, Officer Commanding Troops, Moyale, met Fitaurari Hapta Georgis, the Abyssinian Minister for War, at Mega when this most important question was discussed. The meeting seems to have been conducted with much judgment and tact on both sides, and the promise made that the Boran would be strongly discouraged to bring stock to our side cannot fail to have a good effect on the situation. As an earnest of his goodwill the Fitaurari at this meeting consented to allow to proceed to Moyale two Greek traders who had been held up for many months by the Abyssinian authorities.

A copy of Captain Cochran's interesting report is enclosed for Your Grace's information.

4. To the east of the Boran Province lies the Province known as the Yaben. On this part of the frontier

Rudolf. Owing to the apathy of local tribesmen, who from fear of reprisals are unwilling to bring in news of these raids, it has been very difficult to take effective action against the raiders. Towards the end of last March the Officer-in-Charge of the Marsabit District while on patrol near Northern Horr with two sections of mounted infantry came across the fresh tracks of a large raiding party leading south. He immediately started in pursuit and after forced marches came in touch with the hunters east of Mount Kulal and later with another party in the Horr Valley. The enemy, who numbered in all about fifty armed men, lost 9 killed and 5 captured; our losses being nil. In addition 14 rifles and 13 mules fell into our hands, together with a quantity of elephant tusks and rhinoceros horns. The hunters scattered into the dense bush and it is doubtful if many of them will reach their frontier owing to the waterless nature of the country. It is the custom of these poachers to raid British villages 'en route' and a successful action such as this is likely to have a salutary and deterrent effect. The prisoners are being handed over to the Abyssinian authorities for punishment.

6. In June 1922 Colonel Llewellyn made an extended tour along the eastern shore of Lake Rudolf. He visited Mount Kulal on the way and returned to Moyale along the Abyssinian border. He found that the El Molo, the strange fishing people living on the small islands in the Lake, had been reduced to a few families and were suffering much from the effects of inter-breeding and want of proper food. Traces of a recent Abyssinian hunting party were seen and in this connection Colonel Llewellyn

observes

observes in his report that the large herds of elephants and buffalo which he saw on his first visit to Kulal ten years before seemed to have been almost exterminated. The control of Ato Gabru and Fitaurari Ayala does not extend to that portion of Abyssinia bordering on this area and it was found that the country on our side was depopulated and that the few inhabitants were much in fear of raids. It is proposed to place a military post at Northern Horr in order to check the activities of the raiders.

7. On the whole the general situation on the frontier can be described as satisfactory at present but it is unwise to be very sanguine where border affairs are concerned. A change in policy by the Ethiopian Government, such for instance as the removal of Ato Gabru from Gaddaduma and his replacement by a weak and timid man, would in all probability lead to a recrudescence of the outrages which in 1920 necessitated our occupation of that station.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace's most devoted  
and most obedient servant,



GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

THE GADADUMA CONVENTION OF 1922.

A representative assembly of Gurreh and Degodia Chiefs was assembled at Gadaduma on October 13th, 1922, for the purpose of assessing and deciding on the Peace terms between these two tribes.

The British Government was represented by the Officer-in-Charge Moyale and the Officer-in-Charge Gurreh. The Abyssinian Government by Ato Gabra.

The Gurreh and Boran Councils were constituted as follows :-

GURREH. Boran Rep.

Mahad Hussein representing Gabbra.  
Diad Ibrahim  
Hussein Gad  
Ali Bouki  
Adwa Malichan

have shown hostility  
not improbable that

DEGODIA.

Burali Aedo  
Alim Nur  
Yed Yai Yai  
Ali Omar  
Ali Abdulla.

Whilst the following acted as assessors and advisers and as witnesses to the Peace treaty:-

AJURAN.

BORAN.

GABBRA.

Yuno Mahad  
Alim Mahamoud  
Lerimu Mahad  
Gobeka Hatch  
Ahamed Yai Yai

Sera Soriti  
Wake Yillo  
Gedu Melu

Bagaja Yillo  
Alroun Indu

After a session of 4 days a settlement was arrived at an unanimously agreed to by both parties the terms of which are stated below.

1. The Gurreh agree to pay the Degodia

- 500 Camels
- 250 Goats
- 90 Cows ) Blood Money.
- 90 Camels

2. The Degodia agree to pay the Gurreh - 2000 goats

All the above stock to be conveyed and paid over at Kalicha on or about 18th January, 1923, in the presence of Officer-in-Charge Gurreh and an Abyssinian representative. With the exception of 42 Camels already paid over by the Gurreh. The Settlement to be absolute final and comprehensive and covering all previous settlements and arrangements.

Officer-in-Charge, Moyale Seal.      Officer-in-Charge, Moyale.  
Gurreh.

Seal Ato Gabra

Mark of Mahad Hussein representing Gurreh

"      "      Burali Aedo      "      Degodia

Mark of assessors. Kuno Mahad Ajuran  
Sofa Soritu Boran  
Malim Mohamoud Ajuran  
Bagaja Yillo - Gabra.

-----  
A further agreement was arrived at between

Chief of Gurreh.      Chief of Degodia.

Gababa Mohd.      Hurali Edo.

By which the Blood money 90 cows and 90 camels was to be cancelled with 1300 goats thus:

Gurreh to return

Degodia to return

690 camels  
280 goats.

700 goats

SD/- D. E. Cockrane Captain.

30.10.22.



39/9/B.

Office of the Officer-in-Charge,  
Gurreh District,  
Mundera.

14th February, 1933.

We the undersigned, do hereby declare  
that :-

- (1) The handing over of stock, as agreed upon under the Gurreh-Degodia Peace Treaty of Gaddaduma October 27th, 1922, is now finally completed to our mutual satisfaction.
- (2) That the amount of stock handed over in our presence, and received by Chief Durali on behalf of Degodia and Chief Gababa on behalf of Gurreh, was as under :-

	Camels	Goats
Gurreh to Degodia	640	280
Degodia to Gurreh	Nil	700

It will be remembered that 690 camels was the original number agreed to be handed over by the Gurreh but it has since been discovered that the Degodia had already received 50. Burali himself confirms this (with many regrets for the necessity of reminding him) and it was at his request that this amount be deducted from the original number.

Read over by me to the undermentioned and signed in my presence at Mundera N. P. D.

this

this 14th day of February, 1923.

SD/- P. F. Roberts,

Captain,

Officer-in-Charge Gurreh District.

Chief Gababa of Gurreh. Burali - Chief of Degodia.

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Mahud Hussein 2nd Chief Gurreh.

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C. S. I. Saliki Waldi -

SD/- Saliki Waldi.

Copies to

Chief

of

the

Chief of

MS  
AB  
AD

Dr. 40102/23

Kenga

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~~£3~~

20 August 1923

DRAFT.

I have to <sup>be</sup> with the recd  
of your Comf despatch No 40,

our  
MINUTE.

of the 13<sup>th</sup> of July, <sup>containing</sup>  
stating you that I have <sup>been</sup> <sup>interested</sup> <sup>in</sup> with  
a report on recent events

on that portion of the

Anglo-Abyssinian  
frontier lying between  
Italian Somaliland &  
Lake Rudolf, which

- Mr. Brew Aug 16
- Mr. Harkinson
- Mr.
- Mr. Davis
- Sir G. Gindle.
- Sir A. Read.
- Sir J. Masterton Smith.
- Mr. Ormsby Gore.
- Inke of Devonshire

referred to.