

EAST AFR. PROT.

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Origin

Date.

1912

12 pchs.

previous Paper.

Abyssinian mission to Nairobi.

Sends despatch from Addis Ababa enclosing copy despatch addressed to Gov. East Africa re: postponement of mission until next winter, & stating further as to the objects of Messrs. Douglas & Co's journey to Gondar & Amara.

Sir G. Fieldes

Send copy of this (with 1st & 2nd copies) (omitting last para: of the letter) to the O.A.F. with ref. to previous corresp^{ce}, & say that Mr Hanout is much interested in the matter & trusts that everything will be done to make the visit of the mission a success - & send copy of our despatch to the F.O. for info. 27.?

The great thing is to get these wild people on the northern frontier to trade. I understand from one of our Jubaland officers that at Serenli, some 180 miles up

subsequent Paper

/8012

up the Juba there is a fine trading
centre for the sale of European goods
to the surrounding Somali tribes
& that 2 or 3 steamers are running between
there & Keimayye.

H. J. L.

13/III

Pr. 13

Ch. 13.3

E 14.3

As proposed

[It is a pity Sir P. Girouard discouraged
the start - I suppose because he was
coming on leave]

H. 14.3.12

SR Ea

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 9186/1912.
and address—
The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

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(See
margin)

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The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents
his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for the
Colonies — and, by direction of the Secretary of
State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,
March 12, 1912.

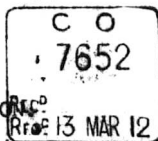
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Reference to previous letter :
F.O. March 4.

Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Mr. Treiger 20.10 Feb. 9.	Major Douglas Wylie's Commercial journey.

(Similar letter sent to



BRITISH LEGATION
ADIS ABABA.

9th February, 1912.

Sir:-

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of my despatch of the 7th instant to the Governor, Nairobi, explaining why it was now impossible to send Major Doughty-Wylie down to Nairobi with an Abyssinian Mission.

Although I regret this postponement I think under the given conditions no other course was open, and, as the local Government has sent to bring up various Borana chiefs to the capital to discuss trade possibilities, the delay may in the end prove advantageous by allowing us to gain further knowledge before dealing further with this question, which ought to have a very important bearing on the future peace of the border.

I therefore propose to send Major Doughty home by Gondar and Asmara in order that he may study Italian commercial methods there, and the system of tolls on

Mr E. Grey, Bart., M.P.,

&c., &c., &c.

on the Italian-built road from Gondar to Asmara, and see to what extent they are drawing away from Gallabat trade which should pass through the Sudan and how best we can prevent this.

Major Doughty's despatch number 5 of the 20th January shows how the Italians are pushing their commercial interests in Abyssinia and how their competition affects us both as regards the Sudan and the East African Protectorate trade.

It is I consider very important that we should have further knowledge of the trade conditions both in the North and South. The former could be obtained by Major Doughty on his way home, this journey having already been sanctioned, and I would then propose that on his return in the autumn he should be allowed to accompany the postponed Abyssinian Mission to Nairobi.

[With regard to irrigation schemes in connection with Lake Tsana, Major Doughty might be able to obtain information at Gondar as to how far the rumours which we hear in Adis Ababa are true that Monsieur Baldassare and others have agents on the spot to study

study this question with the idea of obtaining a concession from the Abyssinian Government. It is I think well recognised here that no scheme of this kind can be put through without the consent of the Sudan Government but at the same time considerable mischief might be done to our future interests if irresponsible persons are to be allowed to make proposals to the Abyssinian Government without our knowledge, exaggerating the value of the scheme and consequently enhancing the price which Abyssinia would expect to be paid when the Sudan Government ultimately decide to take the matter up.]

I have &c.,

(Signed)

Wilfred G. Thesiger.

BRITISH LEGATION

ADIS ABABA.

Recd
13 MAR 12

7th February, 1912.

Sir:-

With reference to Major Doughty-Wylie's telegram of the 26th November last asking if an Abyssinian Mission to Nairobi for trade purposes would be approved, and his despatch of the 29th November, some misunderstanding appears to have arisen and in consequence of the delay which it has occasioned it is now too late to attempt to send the Mission before the rainy season begins and the matter must be postponed until the winter.

When I arrived back here on the 23rd January last Major Doughty-Wylie informed me that he had the sanction of the Foreign Office to make this journey taking an Abyssinian Mission with him, and that you had also approved of their coming but that as you were going on leave you suggested postponing it until your return.

Major Doughty-Wylie and I were both of the opinion that, as matters had gone so far, and the Abyssinian Government had been asked and had consent-

ed

His Excellency

The Governor

of the East African Protectorate.

consented to send this Mission, it would be a mistake to put them off. Hence my telegram of the 26th January recommending Major Doughty-Wylie and the Mission should start at once in spite of your absence on leave.

Had your telegraphic reply, which was only received on the 4th instant, agreed to this we calculated that there would just have been time to get the Mission started and well on their way before the rains began. Your answer however of the 2nd February only suggested "that as the matter was assuming such importance it should be referred home", and as this would have entailed a further delay of a week or ten days before we could definitely tell the Mission, who would in turn require about three weeks to collect mules etc., that you would receive them, we were reluctantly compelled to admit that it was now too late to do anything this spring and that the matter must be delayed until the winter, and I sent off my telegram of the 5th instant informing you to this effect.

It is I think to be regretted, as, although now favourable to the idea, no one can say what view the Abyssinian

Abyssinian Government will take in a few months time. To have despatched the Mission during the rainy season would however have been a serious mistake as the Abyssinians cannot stand the low country in the rains, they would have suffered badly from fever and, if they did not turn back, would have arrived disgusted and disheartened with the whole business.

I will explain matters to the Abyssinians in the most favourable way and will endeavour to re-arrange the Mission for the winter.

I should be glad if you could in the meantime send me full information:-

1. As to your requirements in the Cattle trade
2. As to the establishment of the three Custom houses suggested by Major Doughty-Wylie.
3. As to the best trade routes and seasons for travelling between Moyale and the other proposed Custom Houses to Nairobi in connection with trade.

I have &c.,

(Signed) Wilfred G. Thesiger.

His Britannic Majesty's Minister.

D. MAR

So 7652.2

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[Handwritten signature]

25 March 1912

DRAFT.

*Cap
Conf.
OAG*

MINUTE.

- Mr. Bennet 23/9
- Mr. Reid 23
- Sir G. Fiddes.
- Sir H. Just.
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Emmott.
- Mr. Harcourt.

(letter)

Sir,
I have toack the receipt of Sir P. Girouard's tel no. 36 of the 15th of Feb. to transmit to you for your info the accompanying copy of a br., with its enclosure, from the FO. respecting the

12 March

(except last para)

If to FO here in the (? include copy of 8012)

copy to 25 March 1912

postponement of the proposed visit ^(to Nairobi) of an Abyssinian Mission & until next winter.

2. I am much interest in this ^{visit} project & I trust that everything