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24 MAY 5

1913

E. A. F. INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Preis of Reports respecting the Marahan, trade in fir-arms in S. Jubaland, Aulihan Somalis, Cerenli tribes, formation of S. Jubaland District, roads in Jubaland, supplies in Jubaland, climate of Jubaland, buildings at Cerenli, troops and police in Italian Somaliland, measures for reinforcements in Jubaland and transport (camel, mule and mechanical).

Further prices attached.

W. Bottomley ~~to be read~~ Dr. G. Fiddes

These are two pieces of various papers which Capt French has received from the Intelligence Officer at Mersot. They are interesting summaries and may be useful for reference, but do not think that we can take any action on them unless the local Govt brings them before any of the questions with which they deal.

I gathered from Mr Evans (Secretary) and Mr. [unclear] that they have had a deal of talk & discussion about all this. I think we shall get a resume with recommendations from the Governor in due course. Mr. Deck seemed to take a calm view of the situation & thought that he was inclined to depreciate references to the danger from Abypenni or from a combination of the Marahan & other tribes.

Subsequent Papers

The suggestion that there should be a  
mule section of the Camel Company  
seems reasonable. I understand that  
a mule can go two days without  
water & cover a large ~~and~~ distance  
in the time. Moreover, they could be  
purchased locally & cheaply: the  
camels have to come from afar;  
they are more expensive & are liable  
to much sickness.

W. H. H. by

all!

The last piece is sharded 7/5/13  
interesting. The Conference seem to have made  
short work of Col Graham's proposal  
for 3 companies at Wajeh

W. H. H.

30.5.10

H. J. R.

30/12/13

G. J. 31.5.13

E. I. 6.13

H. J. 5.13





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No. 1 is a précis of a report by Captain Scames. It shows that the different sections of the Marahan are not likely to combine in spite of the efforts of Farah Gdt. chief of the Far Ugas. It also reports the opinion of the Political Officer that Abdr Rahman Mursai, the most important Aulihan chief, may be responsible for the trouble in the Marahan country.

No. 2 concerns the trade in firearms in N. Jubaland. The bulk of this trade is as always traced to Abyssinia, and the price given for rifles and ammunition indicates what a very lucrative and tempting business it is. The places named as centres for this trade, which is said to be an increasing one, are Bilwak, and Jema or Tiris Codi 3 days from Lugh, in Abyssinian territory. The rifles are bought mainly for inter-tribal raiding, and the various sections have to arm themselves in self defence. Most of the rifles brought into Jubaland appear to be of French make.

No. 3 is a précis of the intelligence collected about the Marahan during 1912. It appears that raids and counter-raids were constant until the end of September when the patrol moved out from Sarenli. Since that time there have been less frequent and so the patrol has done useful work. But on the other hand it is clear that the country is by no means in a settled state and that the continued presence of troops will probably be necessary for a time to come. It is also evident that the troops

have many more transport camels and such greater mobility.

No. 4 is a précis of the information collected about the Aulihan Somalis during 1912. This section appears to be in a thoroughly unsettled and unsatisfactory state, which is probably due to the ability and untrustworthiness of their most important chief Abdr Rahman Marsal.

No. 5 is a summary of information collected about the other tribes who live in the vicinity of Sereuli. These are:-

- (1) The Balaad
- (2) The Machabul
- (3) The Sheikhal
- (4) The Gerri
- (5) The Bartirri
- (6) The Herti
- (7) The Garre
- (8) The Darodia
- (9) The Gabawan
- (10) The Tigre.

In number 6 Major Hicksen discusses the policy to be followed with regard to the Merahan Somali. He first enumerates the outstanding questions which must be settled sooner or later. He advises that these questions be settled before any further responsibility be undertaken in S. Jubaland and moreover that they be settled slowly and deliberately, gradually collecting information and avoiding any dispersion of troops. He is of opinion that the present system of patrolling with a base camp on the

Juba north of Serenli be followed.

In No. 7 he advocates a similar policy to be followed towards the Aulihan Somalis, viz: that, later on when the state of affairs in the Merahan country is more settled, a patrol and a political officer be sent through the Aulihan country. He is in favour of tribal Government as far as possible, but points out that the Aulihan Chiefs have little or no influence over the young fighting men.

No. 8 is a memorandum on the many requests that have been received by the Officer Commanding the Troops at Serenli from Administrative Officers for small detachments and escorts to be scattered over an enormous area of country. He protests against these demands and points out that, had he acceded to them, the military situation would have been dangerous and unsound.

In No. 9 Major Hickson recommends that a district named N. Jubaland be formed. That this district include roughly speaking the whole Merahan country and that the district Commissioner be made practically independent of the Officer Administering the Northern Frontier District and the Acting Provincial Commissioner Jubaland.

No. 10 is a list of the main roads in Jubaland and such information as is available about them.

No. 11 concerns the lines of supply for Serenli and Moyali.

Major Hickson recommends that some form of mechanical transport be tried at all events between Kismayu and Gobwen.

He also advocates supplying Moyali and Wajheir via Meru and the Lorian Swamp.

No. 12 deals with the question of supplies actually procurable in Jubaland.

No. 13 is a most important paper on camel transport and is based on a year's practical experience of the military camel transport at Serenli.

No. 14 Concerns riding camels and mules. Major Hickson points out that Gobwen is an unsatisfactory place for camels and advocates giving up that station for a time at all events.

He also recommends that a proportion of the men of the camel company be mounted on mules, and that it be done gradually by replacing such camels as die by mules. This seems a sound suggestion and there is little doubt but that in the comparatively well watered Merahan Country mules would do well.

No. 15 is a report on Climatic conditions, the rise and fall of the river Juba, and station buildings at Serenli.

No. 16 concerns the troops and police in Italian Somaliland.

No. 17 give a list of the most important measures to be taken in the event of it being necessary to send reinforcements to Serenli or in case of active operations in Jubaland.



Précis of a conference held at Nairobi on April 3rd 1913 concerning Jubaland and the Northern Frontier District and of correspondence relating thereto.

This conference was held to discuss various questions concerning the above area -

I. Prior to the conference Mr. Hope and Captain Salkeld submitted a joint memorandum regarding:

(a) The boundaries of the two areas which they recommended should run from the Lorian Swamp through Wajheir which is to be partly in Jubaland and partly in the Northern Frontier District, thence to the east of Kil Wak and thence by Danaso Humbali to Nusi (?Ussi) on the Dawa River. With this the Officer Commanding Troops is in agreement the boundary being tribal, convenient as regards supply and communication, and because it makes the officer in charge of the Northern Frontier District entirely responsible for the Abyssinian border.

(b) The intercourse and interchange of information between the civil authorities of the two areas. This it is suggested should be effected by monthly intelligence reports, and the Officer Commanding Troops expressed a hope that these should be supplemented whenever possible by personal interviews.

(c) Communication of political information by the Civil to the Military authorities. This will also be ensured by monthly intelligence reports and personal interviews.

(d)

(d) Arrangement for transport and supplies for civil and military. It is proposed to supply

(I) Kulal from Archer's Post on the Vaso Nyiro River.

(ii) Wajheir and Moyale from Archer's Post via the Lorian Swamp

II. These officers were also asked to recommend separate recommendations on:

(a) Stations and posts maintained.

(b) Nature of administrative control and means of effecting it.

(c) Nature of Taxation.

(d) Subsidies for and duties of chiefs.

(e) Establishment of native councils.

For the Northern Frontier District it was recommended that:-

(a) Posts be maintained at (i) Moyale, (ii) Wajheir, (iii) in the Garre country and (iv) in the Samburu country.

(b) That political officers get in touch with chiefs and headmen. Offences to be dealt with according to local custom and orders enforced by political officers and police if possible.

(c) Taxes to be in camels or cattle and to amount annually to from 1½ to 1% of total stock.

(d) Chiefs to be subsidized and act as the subordinates of political officers.

(e) Tribal councils already exist.

Mr. Hope further stated that he was prepared to administer Wajheir provided that a civil officer of the Jubaland Province and 25 police were also stationed there.

For Jubaland it was recommended that:-

(a) Posts be maintained at (i) Kiamayu, (ii) Wajheir, (iii) in North Goshu and that a game ranger be stationed on the Lorian.

(b) Political officers get in touch with Chiefs by constant travelling.

That the Merrahan country should be in the charge of a military officer: with this suggestion the Officer Commanding Troops is in agreement provided the military officer be in complete control.

(c) The Somalis to be taxed in camels when their water supply has been improved.

(d) Chiefs to be subsidized and under the orders of political officers as at present.

(e) Native councils and some native retainers eventually to be recognized.

III. As regards military garrisons in these areas the Officer Commanding Troops strongly recommended that no further subdivisions of the troops be made, that administrative progress be very slow and that the Merrahan question be settled before further responsibilities be incurred. In his opinion a garrison of three companies at Wajheir is desirable as he is nervous about the safety of the political officer there.

IV. At the Conference which was held after the exchange of these various memoranda it was decided that

(a) the boundaries as suggested be approved subject to the concurrence of the Secretary of State.

(b) that monthly intelligence reports be exchanged and personal intercourse arranged when possible.

(c) That Serenli and the country to the north be entirely in the hands of a military officer who will pass such minutes as may affect the future administration of the district through the Provincial Commissioner Jubaland.

(d) That one additional Assistant District Commissioner be appointed to the Northern Frontier District. The present staff to be redistributed on the abandonment of Marsabit, one officer to be stationed near Mt. Nyire and another at Archer's Post.

(e) That, in the event of Jubaland officers being stationed at Wajheir and Afmadu, 30 armed constabulary be recommended for each post.

(f) That a transport and supply scheme be prepared.

(g) That control be obtained gradually by winning the confidence of the chiefs.

(h) That existing native councils be encouraged and recognized and the system of tribal retainers be introduced and extended as far as possible.

(i) That for the present the Somalis shall not be taxed.