



military responsibilities on the frontier at  
present - + copy of our desps. to the  
F.O. for info: 17?

H. J. R.

17/10/14

P. 10. 2. 14

V. M. 14. 2. 14

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as proposed

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In any further communications on this subject, please quote No. 3348/14  
Under-Secretary of State, Foreign Office, London.



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 copies of ~~the under-mentioned~~ a despatch from ~~the under-mentioned~~ paper.

Foreign Office,  
Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 1911.

Reference to previous letter:

Description of Inclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
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A.M. Minister  
at Adis Ababa, etc  
respecting the

Heid in, Kidal District

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January 21

SECTION 1.

~~ABYSSINIA~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

348

~~NO. 1.~~

Mr. Thesiger to Sir Edward Grey. (Received January 24.)

No. 1.)

Adis Ababa, January 1, 1914.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 91 of the 20th November concerning the question of compensation for the raid in the Kulal district in which Mr. Jones was wounded, I have the honour to report that I have endeavoured for some time to obtain an audience with Lij Yasu and the Nagadras on the subject, but without success.

I had arranged for an interview one day, but on arriving at Lij Yasu's palace I found that the Nagadras was not there and the Prince himself was too intoxicated to be able to grasp what I was saying to him. I came away and then asked for another meeting a day or two later. This was, however, postponed on account of the illness of the Nagadras, and Lij Yasu then sent to say that he would be very glad to see me personally, but that he would not discuss any business until Nagadras Hailu Giorgis was well again and able to be present.

I consequently went to see him and after a conversation on general subjects I told him that His Majesty's Government were, in consequence of the raids of the past few years, of Captain Aylmer's death, and Mr. Jones' wound, claiming compensation to the extent of 150,000 dollars.

I pointed out that his Government had refused the rectification of the frontier which would have enabled us to institute a system of co-operative patrolling; that they had failed to punish anyone for these raids, although they had had many of the men implicated under arrest for some time; and that as the local chiefs were very largely to blame for this state of things, His Majesty's Government must hold the Ethiopian Government responsible.

Lij Yasu listened attentively and asked one or two questions, but gave no opinion, and promised me that he would discuss the matter again before I left Adis Ababa.

I sent Mr. Zafiro yesterday to see the Nagadras, but he found him ill in bed and refusing to do any work. I propose therefore to put the demand in writing and to send it to the Minister for Foreign Affairs asking for a written reply, as I am sure that the Nagadras will not leave his bed until I have left Adis Ababa, and it is in consequence hopeless to expect an interview.

It is, I am convinced, certain that the Government will refuse compensation as they have hitherto refused to accept any responsibility for the condition of affairs on the frontier, and we shall in the end, I consider, be forced to make the rectification without their consent and to increase our force on the border to the extent necessary to hold the line securely.

I am forwarding a copy of this despatch to Lord Kitchener.

I have, &c.

WILFRED G. THESIGER.

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[January 24.]

ABYSSINIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

[3348]

No. 1.

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*Adis Ababa, January 1, 1914.*

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I consequently went to see him, and after a conversation on general subjects I told him that His Majesty's Government were, in consequence of the raids of the past four years, of Captain Aylmer's death, and Mr. Jones' wound, claiming compensation to the extent of 150,000 dollars.

I pointed out that his Government had refused the rectification of the frontier which would have enabled us to institute a system of co-operative patrolling; that they had failed to punish anyone for these raids, although they had had many of the men implicated under arrest for some time; and that as the local chiefs were very largely to blame for this state of things, His Majesty's Government must hold the Ethiopian Government responsible.

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WILFRED G. THESIGER.

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(Conf) 23<sup>rd</sup> Feby. 1914.  
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DRAFT.

E.A.P.

Confidential

to Mr. H.C. Belfield.

MINUTE

- Mr. Harper 20/2/14
- Mr. Bottomley 20/2/14
- Mr. Reid 20
- Sir G. Fiddes
- Sir H. Just
- Sir J. Anderson.
- Lord Emmott.
- Mr. Harcourt.

For 20/2/14

With reference to my conf. dispatch of the 23<sup>rd</sup> & Jerry I have the honour to refer you that I transmit to you the accompanying copies of a letter from the 70 & its enclosure on the subject of the situation on the Abyssinian frontier.

2. With reference to the penultimate para. of Mr. Thesiger's despatch.

70 23<sup>rd</sup> Feby. (5726)

\* No. 2072

For 20/2/14

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despatch, you will  
realize that no  
further ~~commitment~~  
military responsibilities  
on the frontier can  
be undertaken at  
present.

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(RECEIVED)