

17  
DESPATCH

East Africa Post

No. 21414

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21714

18 JAN 07

1907

Affair in Syria

Transcript of a letter to me from  
General Sir Archibald Gough-Calthorpe under  
date 18 January 1907. Referring  
to a map which had been sent him  
by Sir Charles

18 Jan 07

General in Syria

628

1907

2

All done

~~Very Major, particularly  
Confidential No. 94.~~

Financial Office  
Washington

May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1902

My dear Sir,  
The enclosed is an extract from a  
writing I found published in the  
strongest accents against me in the  
press, now to be seen in my office.  
It is not with me in Washington. I  
feel that I can not judge fully in  
placing the notice, just before your  
lodging, very especially as it is  
evident from my newspaper cutting that  
the writer may be made the subject  
of agitation at home. If history is  
but a case as I was in the former  
days, Brodhead's letter is all the  
people's language.  
After reading the foregoing  
we despatched to New York the  
copy and a copy of my  
speech to confirm these to the  
agent present, contained a sum  
and dispatched them there. There  
is no record of their arrival.

Very truly yours  
for the Colonies - Colonia

Franklin D. Roosevelt

205  
360  
usually applied to his iron in  
comparatively uneventful scenes.

I understood well enough all the  
agitation against the old wall.  
That movement was quite in  
justifiable though it had been  
prolonged.

It was a very bad day and  
I was compelled to  
use the other end of the  
wall which I did  
not like one bit.

and would not go into it  
but then a red flag being raised  
was enough to turn me  
upright. However as you often  
have seen in my other  
notes I am not always

misled by flags and  
had made up my mind that  
the ground there could not  
be injured by coming near to the  
men which had been there

before the disappearance of  
the men by chance but that  
it might be necessary while here  
and we to the best completion  
to do what applies for the road, and  
despite the order of a master which  
had

had been given in the previous spring, he arrested the four condemned plaintiffs, <sup>despite</sup> ~~despite~~ them apparently being the wrong man and confined them in the same jail for 10 days, <sup>despite</sup> ~~despite~~ a writ recently issued from this state and of the matter when he called for the Department attorney in another case and the attorney said you ought to let him know.

As soon as it was ascertained before the petitioners legally had cause to believe the other Judge, Conroy, was deprived of his right to a full and complete hearing, I then proceeded to have a private desk held a thorough investigation into the complaints with the result shown in the letter above referred to.

I have not yet received Mr. Macdougal's explanation but from what has now transpired it is impossible to ignore the presumption that Mr. Macdougal's reports were misleading, that he never thoroughly investigated, that he never engaged

351.

engaged into the complaints made to him, and that the Tigray people, though troublesome to deal with and ever captives under the rule of their rulers, actually had 3000 men against him - also eight British ships - and complained especially of illegal acts and conduct taken by their former officers.

In regard to the complaint of Mr. Macgregor's action as utterly indefensible - he does not however pretend to defend it - and I record very respectfully in the remarks made by Sir H. Hope on the principal Tigray and Dergishan causes, despite his confidence in their respect.

In the case of Judge Brabourne's orders against rebels were justified by his authority, Com. responsibilities to require them to make peace with the Tigray and the step was due step, to hand over charge of the British possessions to him to be his Reddy, when was sent to inform him, and to present to him the

18. The position now is this - Mr. Lacey has given notice of filing a suit on behalf of the sugar claimants against Mr. Macdonough and the Secretary of State. He is however in no hurry to do so and if you retire from the matter, if the compensation he claims on behalf of the settlers, including his own, is paid to him. Then he sets down at one thousand pounds a quarter which is considered to be excessive. Mr. Lacey of course take no action to prevent this case coming into Court, if Mr. Lacey chooses to proceed but it would obviously be unadvisable that it should go so, especially in the present time when there is so much bad feeling amongst the settlers at Nanobi. I am accordingly following Mr. Macdonough to see if he can arrange through his solicitor Mr. Tunks to satisfy Mr. Lacey's demands. This will probably be difficult, as Mr. Macdonough cannot afford to pay so large a sum but it would probably be

30

Very truly & faithfully his Servt  
John H. Tipton  
I shall apply further to the  
cause & you will be informed.

I have the honor  
to tell the Minister of State  
that I am very much

P.S. I have written to Washington  
as per your direction and  
will advise you accordingly.

~~365~~MORNING  
2nd May 1907.

Your Excellency,

Upon referring to your confidential letter of 1<sup>st</sup> yesterday's date calling my attention to foreign remarks on "White" or "Black" men's rights I have now before me statement of your instruction that I had considered the matter and the power to make such a statement.

I regret to have to inform you that Lord's opinion may, notwithstanding his country's authority to do otherwise, be admitted hereditarily and transmitted from person to person without trials, and at a subsequent date he has manifested what appears to be a recollection of his original opinion as a result of which the "White" and "Black" man was apparently condemned. A verbal record will suffice to give you a general idea of the case but upon appeal, I prefer and would be compelled to repeat the judgment of the original judges in the following words as subsequently agreed to by the parties:

"It will be necessary for you to make a full and complete confession to us. We demand it as a condition of our

granting of a pardon.  
R. H. Hamilton,  
Attorney General.

Mombasa

I made the arrangements mentioned above, and I am now awaiting your instructions as to what steps I have taken heretofore.

In February last I was interviewed two or three times by Major bin Meinh and Tugut Bin Meinh as agent for the above and subsequently retained a retained an attorney and solicitor, Mr. A. J. G. Abbott, who has been retained by me.

On receipt of your instructions I understood to proceed to Mombasa and I applied for a Police warrant to search my premises.

On March 1st I presented this warrant to the Commissioner of Police and he refused to issue it, stating that there was no sufficient evidence to justify such an order.

On April 1st I again applied to the Commissioner of Police and he again refused to issue the warrant, stating that there was no sufficient evidence to justify such an order. I therefore took proceedings against the Commissioner of Police before the High Court and sued him for damages for the loss of my property and reputation.

On April 10th the High Court of Kenya issued a writ of habeas corpus and ordered that the setting out of the facts in my statement to you in April 1951 and the facts contained in my letter to you dated April 1951 should be put in issue. The Commissioner of Police has now filed his answer to my writ and I am awaiting your instructions as to what steps I should take in this matter.

LAW OFFICES

~~4/8~~

the system & media because so no investigation took place & the  
Acting Commissioner of Police was never called to account.  
However, he was the one of investigating by State attorney.

On 20th April 1968, I filed and obtained Protection  
Order against the Acting Commissioner of Police.  
On 21st April 1968, I was released upon bail  
and I have been awaiting trial since then.

I am allowed to work or selected injury day (I had  
been working for 10 years continuous for 10 months).  
On 23rd April 1968, I was indicted on charge of  
attempted murder, conspiracy to commit murder,  
assault & battery, and obstruction of justice.

On 24th April 1968, I presented a letter from Mr. H. R.  
Hollis, Director of the Commonwealth Bureau of  
Investigation, Boston, Massachusetts, to the Honorable  
Edward J. Wren, Clerk of Court, Boston, Massachusetts.

The letter advised that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
had been granted a writ of habeas corpus before the Honorable  
Justice Thomas Quinn of Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
on the 2nd April 1968. Since that date, that honor-  
able Justice has issued a writ which has been issued  
to the State Attorney of Boston, Massachusetts  
for release of the accused individual. I have addi-  
tional information which is related to the Commonwealth  
of Massachusetts by reason of the above mentioned.

2. The first stage of the war, from 1914 to 1916, was one of rapid  
mobilization and initial successes for the Central Powers.  
The British Empire and France were forced to withdraw  
from the field, and the German Empire had captured  
most of the Balkans and the Dardanelles. The British  
had suffered heavy losses at Gallipoli, and the French  
had suffered heavy losses at Verdun. The Central Powers  
had also suffered heavy losses at the Somme, and the  
British had suffered heavy losses at the Battle of Jutland.  
The Central Powers had also suffered heavy losses at the Battle  
of the Marne, and the British had suffered heavy losses at the Battle  
of the Somme.

~~SECRET~~

I am writing to you today to point out that which must  
be obvious to you who is acquainted with modern journalism  
viz that had I been a person who desired the exploitation  
of any matter the 'is private gain' of Harnsworth or the  
numerous funds which have paid me £1,000 or four hundred  
pounds for services which would have enabled the  
whole world of English maladministration that would  
have been nothing but a visiting Habas or similar  
and been propagated might have been a disgraceable matter  
but as also with I have been in a painful position in  
the service of those so my personal clients which cannot be  
denied but prosecution & disbarment on the other hand  
the Government of this nation of the  
same has been assisted and encouraged by the tribes  
and their political friends on the criticism of unprincipled  
politicians & so much so as Sir Hardinge  
and other members of like & loyal society should be  
advised & directed to stand up & speak up  
and I am advised the nation deserves no less  
I have officially made a statement to this effect  
which you will see - another fact I wish to do I hope  
you will allow me to think of - is to have a pamphlet sent around  
to all high authorities to point out to you that unprincipled  
politicians & their enablers to whom I have referred  
and as I can neverometric with my self & others  
regarding a cause you will have to your information

I have etc.

John W. D. 1909.

April 26, 1907,

The

Sir Excellency

The Acting Commissioner

East Africa Protectorate.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that under Your Excellency's instructions I have visited Dau and Sigo to enquire into the complaints of the people at Sigo.

I commenced my enquiry at Sigo on April 8 and sat in Court there on April 9, 10, 11 & 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 and then adjourned and sat there April 19 and 20.

I examined about eighty natives of a Sigo - H. E. the Sultan of Sigo, Mr. MacCormick, the Sub-Commissioner of Zanzibar, Mr. MacCormick, who was Acting Sub-Commissioner during Mr. Kitchener's absence on Java, June 1, 1906 to January 1907 - Dr. J. R. Horse, Acting Collector of Land and Taxes under his name, the Sultan of Sigo.

The main complaint was that four persons namely, Qasim Ali Isa - Mohamed Ali Hassan - El Hassan, were wrongfully imprisoned or detained at Sigo for fifteen days from about Jan 24 to April 15, 1907.

For the purposes of this enquiry, it is not necessary to go back further than April 1906. At that time four persons of Sigo complained to the Commissioner and Mr.

Mr. MacCormick was sent to Sigo to inquire. Mr. MacCormick then received three men to him and instructed them (their names appear to have been, Shabir Mohamed, Abd Mohamed and Ali Hassan) and reported the matter to the Commissioner. His "interrogation" showed that the men were released by Col. Badger's order and the charge of illegality. The men were apparently in

is prison for some thirty six days.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup> the people of Siyu presented a petition to Mr. McClellan and he recommended the deportation of the ringleaders for this action; but H. E. the Commissioner did not consider that this action could be justified.

On December 5<sup>th</sup> Mr. McClellan wrote stating that on hearing complaints from the Lwali of Siyu he had visited that town and had been made the object of a demonstration against the Lwali. Mr. McClellan then recommended three alternative courses - the one he ~~would~~<sup>had</sup> strongly recommended being the removal of the Lwali and the appointment of an Assistant Collector over the district. He also stated that he considered some of the complaints of the people of Siyu were justified. A minute by the Deputy Commissioner recommending the temporary deportation of the four discontents and the later adoption of Mr. McClellan's proposal was approved of by the Commissioner and the action taken was to warn the people of Siyu; but no one was either deported or imprisoned.

On the return of Mr. MacDougall from leave in January 1907 he visited portions of his province including Siyu and at his request the Sultan went to Siyu and is stated to have made a settlement. Shortly after the Sultan left a Mr. MacDougall went to Siyu and on or about the 24<sup>th</sup> of January took the main four complainants to jail and imprisoned them; two were after some time to stay with friend owing to ill health and a third was sent asking for marriage which were sent, having been signed on February 15.

I regret that I have been forced to believe that the statements in the despatch of Mr. MacDougall are not correct. I do not consider that it was justified in stating that the Sultan was ~~fully~~<sup>very</sup> reassured with double energy when he left for England and I am bound to state that I fully believed the Sultan of Siyu when he informed me that he was aware of the

the statements credited to him in the despatch. The disclosure of the liaison, Kudire and Gaubie was not of a very valuable nature. The statement of what happened before the Sultan took hardly comes up to us. When Mr. MacCouchill states "of course I'm correct" the inference is that he was acting in concert with the Sultan; whereas at that time he and the Sultan were not at this conference.

Another example of Mr. MacCouchill's insincerity I should note that in his Despatch No. 32 of 1905 he states that over 500 Civil trials were tried in December 1904; whereas the returns only show that just one civil case tried in 1904 as 401.

I regret that I have to state that in my belief the Acting Commissioner was artificially misled by Mr. MacCouchill's language. The allegations in all are shown despatches sent to me in 1904, 1905 then repeated in satisfaction against a Government official and for the kind recommendations of Mr. MacCouchill. I do not believe that the Acting Commissioner would have been justified in passing such order.

In a further investigation I find that the report of Acting Gen. Commissioner MacCouchill was not referred to for any regards to the alternative interpretation of reading the recall-way of calling the witnesses; Mr. MacCouchill for you himself expressed this opinion.

It is possible that while Mr. MacCouchill happened to be the d.  
S.C. ADVISER<sup>to the Sultan</sup>, the actual and  
latter from Sirs was D. 100000/- Rupees and Mr. MacCouchill states, I  
that he does not know of a man called Sultan Abdurrahman. The  
Sultan was in the name of Sultan Abdurrahman but in a matter of  
this nature with reference to its execution.

The report was completed was without the whole  
work of the Sultan of Biyu and from an examination of the

the witnesses of Site 1 as quite satisfied that the Liban constantly took shows for carrying building material without proper payment, that he constantly took labour without payment, especially in the case of the slaves of the men who were interned, that he imprisoned men and forced them to work, illegally, that he flogged and otherwise punished people for not cleaning his hand, and in fact acted generally in an improper and oppressive manner and has shown himself quite unfit to do any Government work unless under strict supervision. These charges are fully ~~TRUE~~ until in the notes of the proceedings made.

I do not suggest that in these cases the government has not been exaggerated or that some of the accusations are wholly false but on the whole I consider the charges more than true. Mr. MacDougall however stated that he does not consider these documents to be a good enough fit. I think that it is extremely unfortunate that this discovery was not made earlier, considering that these men have been for two years the leaders of Site 1.

The third main document is dated 29 January 1907. Mr. MacDougall himself testified and showed three charges against Mr. Robert Smith, Robert Smith and James are now being tried, two also known as aliases the second and third.

These three are said to be the first and leaders of being wrongfully placed in building a fort 2000 feet up from sea level to a height of almost four thousand feet. They then got to Mr. MacDougall's house, they went up to the veranda on the ground floor, he then told them to go up to his office in the fort, they waited for him there when Mr. MacDougall returned made their confession to him and then Mr. MacDougall sent them to the doctor to see if they were physically fit and to their relatives and then to the fort where they each received 12 lashes and were imprisoned for 5 days.

Of course these proceedings were completely illegal and

and the men were illegally imprisoned and flogged.

There is however another incident connected with this matter which came to the notice of the Judicial Department in March last, further investigation into which was postponed until after this enquiry, and that is that there are records of these proceedings which do not set out in any way whatever the facts as they occurred. That is to say there is a file, containing a copy of a letter from the Civil of Syria and three witnesses and also three extracts of Committee or ~~Committee~~ <sup>Committee</sup>. The file has chapters, a record and a judgment and is quite inconsistent with itself and with the statement made before us at Law by Mr. Ferguson "I know no judicial proceedings on that day and my evidence of what I saw holding up judicial proceedings at all when I condescended these men."

It therefore appears that these documents were subsequently prepared for the purpose of covering an illegal act, a matter which is most seriously regarded by the Judicial Department and I think that the evidence taken by me that earlier, together with the file and the extracts and this portion of my report should be laid before the principal Judge.

I requested that the Civil of Syria should be suspended pending this report and that the Civil of Lebanon should be temporarily suspending Syria.

I would state that I have had two ~~large~~ petitions from the people of Beirut requesting the return of their ~~host~~.

In my opinion it is absolutely necessary that an experienced European officer should be placed in charge of a District which he will be able to see for some time

402

time, considerable attention to Stipp and that he should endeavor to remedy some of the damage caused by the [illegible], also paying attention to the administration of estates upon which neither there are also complaints.

The four persons interned at Latta have been released

Yours very truly,  
John B. Foster  
Bonds: these bonds should be discharged.

Respectfully,

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's,

Most obedient and humble servant,

*John B. Foster*

Judge,

Officer conducting administrative Inquiry.

Enclosures.

Two dispatches 38-38- and 38 of 1906.

Year 1907.

Administration Inquiry. Notes of the proceedings.

Case No. 3 of 1907.

1. Warrant of Commitment or Remand.

2. Warrant of Interrogation.

3. Indictment and Bill of Indictment.

375  
65

Singapore,

May 29th, 1965.

You will kindly,

With reference to the report submitted by His Honour Judge Carter I have the honour to call attention to para 5 on page (1).

Three men named Shuk Manqad, Buno Mahomed, Ali Mohamed of Sulu had been imprisoned for 36 days.

I beg to point out that those men had been arrested on the 21st June and released on the 26th June 1965, only 5 days, and not 36 as stated above.

If the Acting Sub-Commissioner had requested them to stay in touch with their friends a week after their release I have nothing to do with that as I was in England.

During my absence Mr. Law my Arabic Clerk, being very kind kept me in touch with events at Sulu. He wrote regular Arabic letters by every mail. I read pretty Arabic without difficulty.

On my return from Sulu I went to Kuala Lumpur. I had a long conversation with the Sultan on the subject of Suluans being prisoners of Sulu himself and in order not to start complications the Sultan of Brunei granted for his son and heir a place in his household & he accepted.

1. Sultan of Brunei
2. Ali Ali Mohamed
3. Mohamed Mohamed
4. Sultana Mohamed

401

were principally responsible for the trouble existing at Siyu and that he would recommend their deportation just for a few months, and then make them sign a bond of good behaviour to the Government and allow them to return to their故乡. There was no reason to disagree with his views, and I waited to receive him for a certain period. This conversation took place at Witu Headquarters on the 18th of January last. Then I requested him to visit Siyu with the double object of seeing his 2 aged sisters and also impossible to bring the people and the Liwali to an amicable settlement. He went and after a period of 3 days returned and reported that he had succeeded in effecting an amicable arrangement of all the troubles between the Liwali and the Siyu people.

The Sultan failed to tell me what the true state of affairs were, he did not inform me for instance, that his 2 sisters had been ill treated by the Liwali, nor did he tell me that as long as the Liwali was left in charge of Siyu there would always be trouble. The Sultan only told me what he thought would please best.

At the investigation I was enabled to make myself aware what investigations were required. The Sultan and Captain Macpherson were ordered to be present during the whole enquiry.

I must regret to have to state in connection with this enquiry that the Sultan had apparently forgotten his judgement or adviser to our Agent at Witu, on the 2nd January last, to the great satisfaction of the Chinese to turn the Liwali and his family round back to China twice without giving permission.

The Sultan of Witu as well as Captain Macpherson, expressing views on the Siyu affair,

were in one accord in vigorously upholding the Liwali against the malcontents in Siyu, and always reminding us that if the Liwali would be removed from Siyu just in order to satisfy the malcontents the dissension would assuredly spread to other vilayets.

I visited Siyu after the Sultan's visit, and the Liwali informed me that although Ali was quite ill, that he was afraid that his position would be untenable unless the 4 principal ringleaders were removed for a few months, and then make them enter into a kind of good behaviour to Government.

I had no doubt in my own mind that this course would be the best means to be adopted and in absolute good faith I had acted accordingly, as I thought by removing them it would put an end to the agitation once for all.

I most emphatically deny having wilfully misled the Acting Commissioner in my recommendations to remove the 4 men above named from Siyu. It does not stand to reason that I should have purposely misled my official Chief. It would neither be true nor personal. It seems next to trust of the Government to do so.

I had urged their removal in the whole-hearted desire to benefit the people of Siyu and the state.

It is alleged that in my despatch No. 56 of 1900 I gave the figures 200 civil suits were tried in December 1900.

When writing this off-hand referred to I had requested the Clerk of the Registrar's office to supply me with these statistics, and I may honestly state that he inadvertently exaggerated them as I had written them in the despatch referred to, so this is due to a clerical error which I now regret.

It is alleged that in my despatch re the

interment of one Sheikh Abdalla, the actual man taken from Siyu was Mohamed bin-Mousab. I wrote, in my despatch to Sheriff Abdalla, instead of Sheriff Mousab. This man is a descendant of the prophet, and therefore ought to be addressed as "Sheriff" I had always addressed him a Sheriff only. It is true that he is commonly known and called Sheriff Mousab but I was under the impression that his second name was Abdalla hence the mistake in the despatch. His name was correct in the baryam.

In reference to the whipping case I supply you with my action; as it was illegal and unjustifiable and I desire to have no defence in the matter.

A word about the people of Siyu - These people appear to be quite different in character and disposition to any other tribe in Thailand. They are extremely ignorant and have always been against any form of Government. British officials affirm that they have been always very noisy and trouble to the various administrators since the days of the late R.R.R.A. Owing until the present day, to the rest of the inhabitants of Thailand put together. One of us here has joined the Wittayalai and fought against the authority of the Sultan of Siam and the R.R.A. for many years, and kept it up until the Navy assisted by our allies took their power.

The recent troubles at Siyu may be said to have commenced with the spelling off the Lanna's Guard at Haili at the beginning of 1906.

The Lanna had posted up a notice containing Orders. Sultan Siyu. This notice was too revolting to the old fashioned laws in time in getting up a strong party to order to send their envoys for the young Lanna. The Lanna concentrated the men.

initiated in all matter of litigation being tried in Court, and not as if had previously been conducted in the villages or in the houses of the various elders, at the slaves' pleasure.

The result was that the Lwali was systematically prevented from visiting the Town or even his mosque, for a period of 8 months.

In 1877, the Faktion went round the Town carrying an empty coffin in which the Lwali's body was supposed to have been carried away of the funeral - This was done just to annoy himself and his wife when I was in labour.

I took charge of Tanaid in 1868, and carried on the administration with only 2 Assistants, one in Tanaid and one at Kigini (at intervals only) since Mr. Anderseen's resignation, thus I had been understaffed and unable to travel much in my Province. I had to rely on my Subordinates to a considerable extent.

The position of Sigu geographically speaking, rendered it most inaccessible, except on spring tides - the result was that I could only afford to visit Sigu at long intervals, and then only for a day or two. The result was unfortunately that Sigu had been left very often too long under the control of the young Lwali without European supervision and I regret to say that the Lwali has so often harassed his subordinates and powers, visited by kidnapping or otherwise.

I believe also to an ignorance of the real state of feeling existing between the people of Sigu and himself, which I could always suspect.

An error of judgment that I may have committed in connection with the Sigu arrangement has been committed in absolute good faith for the good of the

people and Government, and I most earnestly trust  
that your Excellency will consider them under the  
most extenuating circumstances.

In conclusion I hope it will not be out of  
order to mention here that I have served 18 years  
continuous service in the Governments of East  
Africa on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March last i.e. counting my  
services with the late Imperial British East Africa  
Company.

I have received the medal of the I.B.E.A. Company  
the Adenian medal and clasp, the S. African General  
Service and the second order of the Star of Ethiopia  
and various letters of thanks from them.

I have the honour to be,  
Your Excellency's very obedient,  
John H. Barrett,

Barrett