

DOMESTIC.

EAST AFR. PROT.

12118

C. O.
12118

REC'D
APR 9 05

of individuals

Foreign

1909

Apr.

Previous Paper:

11315

Control of S. Abyssinian Frontier

Sends letter from Sir J Harrington & despatch from Aden Abacha
Concerns in view that frontier forces should be organized as soon
as possible, also as to proposed station at Marsabit. Sir J
Harrington endorses Maj. Jurgens proposals for administration
of frontier.

Mr. Antrobus. See also 11376, 10587, & 9739.

We have been trying, but without success

to find the previous papers $\frac{9}{2875}$ & $\frac{50}{4745}$, &
as the Govt states that the matter is pressing
I send on the file without further delay.

The Governor's telegram of the 8th of Feb
was as follows:-

In view of affairs in Abyssinia & also in
order to utilize next rainy season for
sowing food locally request permission
to proceed at once with formation of station
portion of expenditure provided next year
being met from savings Rs 100,000 excess
of estimated revenue expected to be shown in
Kisumu Province.

Apr to 7.0. 20 apt
all copy for Comd 20 apt

E. W. 5002/27-
5000-11-05.

bequirt Paper

12152

11051 Wansab

T.O.

There are two questions to be considered

(A) The policing of the frontier as recommended by Major Grogan.

(B) The establishment of a station at Marsabit on the S.A.P. about 100 miles south of the frontier.

With regard to (A), Major Grogan's proposal will, as the F.O. say, entail considerable expense, although he thinks that a certain portion of it ~~will~~ ^{could} be recovered by a poll tax on the natives (see as to this minute on $\frac{9}{62407}$). The Treasury appear to find the money for policing the boundary should be applied to them on a former occasion & although their opposition may be diminished when they find that we are going to meet some of the expense by taxation of the natives, it is not likely that they will entertain the proposal until they have a detailed estimate & it has been proved to them that the expense will be inconsiderable. I shall therefore be inclined to let the matter stand over until Major Grogan's return & make staff to get along as best we can with Mr. Giffens in the interval.

With regard to (B), we thought at first that the Gov. was going to conduct the policing

of the frontier from Marsabit as Head Quarter & we deemed to the proposal on the ground of Marsabit's distance, some 100 miles, from the frontier. It was official [unclear] that the Governor urges strongly the establishment of a post at Marsabit whether frontier posts are established or not & says that he can send a experienced Officer with 40 to 50 Dordaneese police at short notice. Provided - & I take it that this is the Gov's intention - that there is in addition to

Establishments & no increased expend^{re} in excess of the authorized expend^{re} for the year, we can I think very well treat this as a matter of domestic economy to be settled by ourselves without going to the Treasury.

I will therefore telegraph to the Governor telling him that the S. G. approves of the establishment of a station at Marsabit ^{on the understanding} provided that he can provide the staff required for it without any additions to the authorized ^{estab.} estimates for the year & without any excess

of the authorized expend^{re} for the year
- & say that it is proposed to let the
question of the policing of the frontier
stand over until the 5. of 5. has had an
opportunity of discussing the matter
personally with Major Gwynne on his
return to this country - & send
copy of the F.O. L. to some of the
Gen^l with refer^{ence} to this let.

- & send copy of 10557, 11376, &
of our let. to the F.O. for info, D.F.

It is just possible that the station
at Mercatit may render the policing
of the frontier to a certain extent
unnecessary. At any rate we shall be
able to see how the scheme works
between now & Major Gwynne's arrival
in this country.

H. J. R.

13/IV

J.S.
11.4.

Act as proposed

15. IV

In any further communication on this subject, please quote

No. 11493/09

and address

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
London.

C. O.
12118
168
RECEIVED
APR 10 1909

FOREIGN OFFICE

April 7. 1909.

Sir:-

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letters 2875 of the 12th. February, 4745 of the 26th. February and 6401 of the 6th. ultimo respecting the control of the Southern frontier of Abyssinia.

*arrington
march 13*

*H. Harvey
No. 6*

As regards the first of those letters Sir E. Grey concurs in the opinion expressed by Major Gwynn in his despatch of December 11th. that the frontier forces should be organised as soon as possible, and Sir J. Harrington, who was consulted in accordance with your letter of February 26th, has expressed, in the letter of which a copy is enclosed, his entire concurrence.

*g
4/15*

Sir J. Harrington also endorses the opinion of the Governor of East Africa that a post should be established at Mareabit and Sir E. Grey concurs in that view.

Your letter of the 6th. ultimo enclosing copies of two letters from Major Gwynn was also referred to Sir J.

Harrington

Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

*g
4/15*

Harrington, who states that he is entirely in favour of Major Gwynn's proposals for the administration of the frontier, which are there described. He considers that the officer in charge should be given a very free hand owing to the difficulty in communicating with him, either from Nairobi or Adis Ababa, from the latter of which places it sometimes takes a messenger four months to reach the frontier and return and rarely, if ever, less than seven weeks.

I am, at the same time, to inclose a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Adis Ababa on the subject and to say that Sir E. Grey agrees with Lord H. Hervey that His Majesty's Minister at Adis Ababa should retain authority to issue instructions to the Frontier Inspectors in cases where purely Abyssinian matters are concerned, as well as with his opinion that Mr. Zaphiro should certainly continue to be employed on the Frontier.

Major Gwynn's proposals, however, admirable as they appear to be, will of course entail considerable expense, and while Sir E. Grey would be glad to see

(11493/09)

them adopted, he realizes that as no part of the expense would fall upon this Department, the matter is ultimately one for Lord Crewe's decision.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

W. Langley

25, BERKELEY SQUARE, W.

13th March, 1909.

12118

P.L. 2

12-13-09 2 11-10-09

Sir:-

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 7890/09 with the accompanying correspondence, concerning the adoption of certain measures for the protection of the Boundary between Abyssinia and the East African Protectorate and to submit the following remarks for Sir Edward Grey's information.

I am in complete accord with Major Gwynn's views that steps should be taken immediately to provide a frontier force and officers. It is absolutely necessary, in my opinion, for us to practically demonstrate with as little delay as possible to both Abyssinians and natives that we really consider the portion of the Protectorate now subject to Abyssinian raids our territory.

I have on several occasions stated my views as to the necessity of this and as to the composition of the force, which would be sufficient to give some semblance

of

of protection to the frontier, and see no reason to alter them, beyond remarking that the longer such a step is delayed, the larger will be the force required and consequently a greater expenditure than immediate action would involve.

As regards the Governor of East Africa's suggestion to establish a post at Marsabit, my opinion is that the existing state of affairs in the northern portion of the Protectorate renders it advisable to create a station there in addition to the institution of the frontier force recommended by Major Gwynn.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) John L. Harrington.

Copy

173

C. O.
12118

BRITISH LEGATION

REC^d
REG^d 8 APR 09

ADIS ABABA

30th January 1909.

6858

FEB 20 1909

Sir,

I have the honour to report that the latest advices from Major Gwynn, British Commissioner for delimitating the Northern Frontier, are dated from Bani December 30, 1908.

He stated that no representatives of the Abyssinian Government having put in an appearance, he was about to commence the work of delimitation. On receipt of this news I went to see Mitaurari Bapte Skeris, the only representative of the Government now at Adis Ababa, and asked him what had become of the Chiefs he had told me he had sent to meet Major Gwynn. He said they would probably be waiting for him at Borana, but that their functions would be limited to lending such assistance to the Commission as might be necessary. I then reminded him of the distinct agreement which had been come to, and approved.

Edward Grey, Bart., M.P.,

Secy, Etc., Etc.,

Foreign Office

As regards the distribution of authority, the new 74
scheme appears to be preferable to any of the older ones
in that the greater part of the Commissioner's work will
be in relation to matters with which this Legation is
little concerned; that is to say if Major Gwynn is right
in his contention that Abyssinian raids will practically
come to an end, and this again, it appears to me, must
depend upon the size of the frontier force contemplated.
Sir John Harrington's latest scheme provided for one
hundred men only, not two hundred. In any case it
seems advisable that His Majesty's Minister at Addis Ababa
should retain authority to issue instructions where local
Abyssinian matters are concerned.

I would strongly support Major Gwynn's recommendation
that Mr. Maguire be retained permanently as one of the
Inspectors for the reasons already set out at length in
my Despatch No. 35. of the 30th October last, when I urged
his temporary retention in his present position.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Signed) Herbert Hervey

16
16

36

DRAFT.

Telegram to
Jackson
Nairobi

Codes must be 20 km
MS 15

Gray

Reading
with reference to the form

MINUTE.

- Mr. Read. 15 April
- Mr. .
- Mr. Just.
- Mr. Antrobus.
- Mr. Cox.
- Sir C. Lucas.
- Sir F. Hopwood.
- Col. Seely.
- The Earl of Crewe.

tel: No 49 I approve

Subsidiary
establishment of a station

at Mombasa on the understanding
that

Calcutta
You can provide the staff

Home
required for it without
reference to

any additions to the
authorized establishments for

the year and also

all copy receipt
of 12118 msg. to O.A.S. 12

of 10557, 11376, etc.
to F.O. for info 127