

With this object, the Italian Government will send the necessary instructions to the Italian representative in Addis Ababa, in an identical sense to those which the British Government will send to their own representative, to concert a common line of action with the Abyssinian Government in order to obtain that the concessions asked for by the British and Italian Governments regarding Lake Tsana and the railway connecting Eritrea and Somaliland shall be granted contemporaneously. It remains understood that, in the event of one of the two Governments securing the concession sought by them, while the other failed to do so, the Government which had obtained satisfaction would not relax their most effective efforts to secure a corresponding satisfaction for the other Government concerned, with the object of ensuring that practical execution of the two concessions should, if possible, be contemporaneous.

The Royal Government take note that in the event of His Britannic Majesty's Government, with the effective support of the Italian Government, obtaining from the Abyssinian Government the concession asked for on Lake Tsana, they will recognise the exclusive character of Italian economic influence in the west of Abyssinia and in the whole of the territory to be crossed by the above-mentioned railway, and will also support with the Abyssinian Government all Italian requests for economic concessions in the above zone.

On their side, the Italian Government, recognising the prior hydraulic rights of Egypt and the Sudan, engage not to construct on the headwaters of the Blue Nile and the White Nile and their tributaries and affluents any work which might sensibly modify their flow into the main river.

I note that His Britannic Majesty's Government have every intention of respecting the existing water rights of the populations of the neighbouring territories which enter into the sphere of exclusive Italian economic influence. It is understood that, in so far as is possible and is compatible with the paramount interests of Egypt and the Sudan, the scheme in contemplation should be so framed and executed as to afford appropriate satisfaction to the economic need of these populations.

(Signed) MUSSOLINI.

ANNEX 5

LETTER FROM HIS IMPERIAL AND ROYAL HIGHNESS TAFARI MAKONNEN, HEIR TO THE THRONE OF ABYSSINIA, IN REPLY TO THE LETTER FROM THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DATED JUNE 9TH, 1926.

Peace be with you.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your note dated the 2nd day of Senié, 1918 (June 9th, 1926).

This communication, which is identical with the note I have received from His Excellency Mr. Charles Bentinck, British Minister, informs me of the agreement concluded between your respective Governments with a view to obtaining from the Abyssinian Government a concession for the